

MALFI

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1. EXT. -- COUNTRY ROAD -- DAY
1.

An open car drives along a single-lane, paved road through badlands country.

A serious young man, EDWARD GREENWOOD-CHAPELON, about 20 years old, sits in the back with an older man, JAMES HAWKER.

The car descends a long slope towards a bridge over a river that was once much wider than it is now, and pulls over onto a paved area where vehicles wait for the bridge to clear.

Two cars cross the bridge towards them. The first car carries four uniformed, armed men. A handsome, trim man in his mid-forties, DONALD SUMMERHILL, sits alone in the rear of the second car.

As the two cars turn onto the paved waiting area, Edward and his older companion step out of their vehicle. As the two cars stop, Donald jumps out and hurries over to Edward and James.

DONALD

Hello James.

JAMES

Donald, this is Edward.

DONALD

Edward, it's good to see you again.

EDWARD

Thank you sir, it's good to see you.

James turns to his driver who begins to transfer Edward's gear to Donald's car.

Donald turns to James.

DONALD

It's a long drive back.

JAMES

I know.

He turns to Edward.

JAMES

You've got a -- busy -- time ahead of you, but keep in touch.

EDWARD

Yes sir, I will.

James holds his hand out and he and Edward clasp forearms.

JAMES

Good luck.

EDWARD

Thank you sir.

Donald stands beside his vehicle watching as Edward turns and walks briskly to join him.

Edward, excited by the beginning of new phase in his life, climbs into the back of the car with Donald.

Donald's cars start up and swing round to return over the bridge. As they pass James, Edward has a momentary pang of sadness as he raises his hand in farewell to James and the life he has known so far.

2. EXT. -- COUNTRY ROAD -- DAY

2.

Both Donald and Edward gaze out over the open barren country as the cars speed along the narrow paved road.

Edward breaks his reverie and turn to Donald.

EDWARD

It's an odd feeling to be actually going to Malfi.

Donald turns to him.

DONALD

I'm sure it is. But it's time.

Edward nods.

DONALD

(continuing)

Things are going quite well, but with you there I'm sure we can improve relations with Ramdala. As you know, your parents, particularly your mother, were highly respected.

EDWARD

I understand they didn't like my uncles very much.

DONALD

No, they didn't. But they weren't the only ones.

Donald gives Edward a long look.

DONALD

How much do you know about your background?

EDWARD

I think I've been -- protected -- from a lot of it. I know you saved my life and are responsible for my education and...

DONALD

(cutting in)

Along with a number of other people.

EDWARD

But I don't know the details. You were a good friend of my father, weren't you?

DONALD

Yes. I was his aide-de-camp but we were also good friends.

EDWARD

So you know what really happened to my family.

DONALD

Yes.

Donald pauses and then decides to tell him the truth.

DONALD

I guess if you're going to help us govern Malfi, you've earned the right to know what happened.

DISSOLVE TO:

3. EXT. -- COUNTRY ROAD NEAR MALFI -- DAY
3.

A convoy of 'home-made' cars and trucks rumbles through the barren badlands countryside. In the back of the leading staff car sits WILLIAM GREENWOOD, the

Chaplain-General of Malfi, an imposing figure in a severe black uniform trimmed with red, and his brother Field Marshal FERDINAND GREENWOOD.

As the convoy approaches and passes an outpost dug into the hillside above them, the camera pans ahead and we see it is heading for the still distant Malfi - - a large irregularly shaped complex; a rambling pueblo-like structure, in some places several stories high.

It sits near the bank of a dried up river bed. On the other side there are green fields irrigated by agricultural sprinklers.

A large pipeline crosses the landscape from the general direction the convoy is coming from and enters a fenced pump house.

4. EXT. -- OUTPOST -- DAY

4.

Two sentries man the outpost. As the convoy approaches one of them moves over to a heavy machine gun. The other checks the convoy with his binoculars and shakes his head. The first sentry relaxes and the second one picks up a radio and starts muttering into it.

5. INT. -- THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE IN MALFI -- DAY

5.

The office is a medium sized room with a round-topped window on one wall. A main door connects to an ante-room and to the rest of the palace, and on the opposite wall a door to the Governor-General's private quarters.

A common feature of the palace are bench-like projections from the walls, in this case stacked with piles of documents, books etc.

MARGARETE SICARD, the Governor-General of Malfi, and the sister of the Chaplain-General and Field Marshal Ferdinand, sits at a large desk, also piled with documents, reading a recent communiqué.

There is a polite knock on the main door and CAROLINE DANFORTH, her Principal Secretary, enters smiling.

CAROLINE

The Steward of the Household is here.

MARGARETE

(smiling)

Send him in.

Caroline steps aside, the handsome and charming ANDRÉ CHAPELON enters and Caroline retreats, closing the door behind her.

André, looking pleased, places a dispatch case on the Margarete's desk.

ANDRÉ

Your negotiations with Ramdala have been successful.

Margarete looks relieved.

MARGARETE

They've signed?

ANDRÉ

Yes, I've double checked everything. Our supply of water from Ramdala is safe.

MARGARETE

(with a wry smile)

For the moment.

ANDRÉ

Yes. But a negotiated settlement is more likely to hold than a military one.

MARGARETE

My brothers might not agree with you.

ANDRÉ

I understand they've established strong-points along the pipeline and even captured some insurgents from Ramdala.

André casually sits on one of the wall benches while Margarete, although remaining at her desk, also relaxes.

ANDRÉ

You deserve a lot of credit for the settlement. Those were difficult...

MARGARETE

(cutting in)

I couldn't have done it without you.

ANDRÉ
(modestly)

In this case being from Ramdala helps.

MARGARETE
(trailing off)

Still...

Margarete shakes her head, remembering something in her past.

MARGARETE
I hope this business with Ramdala doesn't make things too difficult for you.

ANDRÉ
I don't think it will. Most of Ramdala is still loyal.

MARGARETE
I know, but they're not the only problem.

André ignoring her comment, suggestively glances at the inner door. Margarete laughs, but before she can rise, her desk intercom chimes and she picks up the handset.

CAROLINE O/C
Ma'am, the Chaplain-General and Field Marshal Ferdinand have passed the northern outpost.

MARGARETE
Thank you Caroline.

Margarete looks resigned as she hangs up and turns to André.

MARGARETE
My brothers have passed the northern outpost.
André immediately rises.

ANDRÉ
I'll round up the welcoming party.

MARGARETE
Thank you.

ANDRÉ

Where do you want them?

MARGARETE

In the main courtyard.

André nods and with a small squeeze of Margarete's arm, he leaves.

6. EXT. -- ROAD BESIDE THE PALACE OF MALFI -- DAY
6.

As the convoy follows the road up to a guarded, heavy timber gate, a staff car and a troop carrier split off and bump along a track beside the high wall of the palace.

7. EXT. -- COURTYARD IN THE PALACE OF MALFI -- DAY
7.

The internal courtyard is large, and bounded by arched cloisters that are four steps above the main area. In the centre there is a slightly raised pool of water.

Margarete, with Caroline, André and DONALD SUMMERHILL, André's aide-de-camp, one step behind, leads the welcoming party across the central courtyard.

The party consists of officials and high ranking members of Malfi society, drawn up according to rank and at a respectful distance behind her.

8. EXT. -- ROAD BESIDE THE PALACE OF MALFI -- DAY
8.

Well away from the gate, the two vehicles stop. The Chaplain-General and Ferdinand climb out of the back of the staff car.

They are joined by an officer, two soldiers and three shackled POWs from the troop carrier.

Soldiers in the troop carrier force several other POWs to watch the proceedings from the back of the truck.

The Chaplain-General nods at the officer who nods at one of his soldiers. The soldier loosens some of the POWs' shackles and waves at them to run away. Two of them try to lurch out into the barren countryside, the Chaplain-General nods at the officer who nods to the other soldier. He opens fire at them with an automatic rifle and they fall to the ground.

The third POW, begging for mercy, kneels in front of the Chaplain-General and Ferdinand. Ferdinand draws

his revolver, shoots the man at point blank range and then walks to the other two POWs to deliver the coup de grâce.

The Chaplain-General addresses the POWs in the troop carrier.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
Now you know who you're dealing with.

He and Ferdinand climb back into the staff car, it turns around and heads back towards the entrance to the palace.

9. EXT. -- COURTYARD IN THE PALACE OF MALFI -- DAY
9.

Margarete stands on the raised cloister at one end of the courtyard facing the aristocrats and officials assembled in front of her in the courtyard.

Caroline stands behind her. André and Donald stand in the front rank of the party but to one side.

MARGARETE
(continuing)
Although these are not the easiest of times, I am pleased to say, that with your steadfast support we have been able to reach agreement with Ramdala and that our water supply is secure...

There is appropriate applause.

MARGARETE
(continuing)
Without the need for arms.

DUNCAN MACKAY, a tough, raw-boned man with a military bearing and a long knife scar across his left cheek, quietly enters the courtyard and takes his place near the back of the assembly.

MARGARETE
(continuing)
So, before the Chaplain-General and Field Marshal Ferdinand arrive, I would like to thank you all for your loyalty and help while they were away on operations, which I understand were quite successful.

There is more appropriate applause. Then JULIA, the young wife of an older official, CHARLES DORCHESTER, nudges him and he takes a step forward.

CHARLES

Ma'am, on behalf of all of us here I would like to thank you for all your efforts and to commend you...

Suddenly Ferdinand appears in the end cloister near Margarete. She takes a step back so he can speak to the assembly, but with a brief nod and a slightly too long glance at her, he bounds down the steps and joins the party on ground level.

CHARLES

(hurriedly wrapping up)

On your wise and judicious management of Malfi.

There is applause but it is hard to tell if it is for the praise of Margarete or for Ferdinand.

The party turns its attention to Ferdinand, although André and Donald remain in the background.

Her face impassive, Margarete watches Ferdinand draw his revolver and make a show of reloading it.

FERDINAND

I'm looking forward to giving up this sport and having some real action.

Some of the party laugh loudly.

Ferdinand doesn't laugh and they quickly become solemn. Then he laughs and they all join in.

The Chaplain-General appears in the end cloister and stops near Margarete.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

(quietly to Margarete)

I understand you've reached a settlement with Ramdala.

MARGARETE

Yes, it's all signed and sealed.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

(grudgingly)

Well done.

With a small nod he steps in front of her to address the assembly.

The assembly applauds enthusiastically.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

Thank you, thank you for your welcome. I ask you to join me in a moment's thanks for Divine help in maintaining the loyalty of Ramdala and thus our water supply and the general well-being of Malfi.

Margarete suppresses her irritation at having her diplomatic efforts ignored as the Chaplain-General raises his arms and the welcoming party silently bow their heads. After a moment, he lowers his arms.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

And now -- carry on with your celebrations. I will give my personal thanks in private.

The Chaplain-General withdraws into the palace and unnoticed, Duncan slips after him.

André and Donald watch, while ignored by Ferdinand and the assemblage, Margarete followed by Caroline, make a dignified exit through the cloister to an entrance into the palace.

10. INT. -- PALACE CHURCH -- DAY

10.

The church is a large, round, domed space with arched doorways around the wall. Concentric circles of benches, broken by aisles, surround the large central cross with two sets of cross arms so that it can be faced from four directions.

Duncan quietly appears in one of the entrances from where he can see the Chaplain-General standing in front of the cross with his arms raised over his head in supplication.

After watching for a moment, Duncan moves around until he is standing in the Chaplain-General's eye line.

The Chaplain-General spots him immediately, but ignoring him, continues his devotions for several minutes before lowering his arms and "noticing" Duncan.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

(sardonically)
You've come to join me in prayer?

DUNCAN
No. I've come because you owe me.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
It seems to me you're in some
disgrace -- two years in a labour
battalion?

DUNCAN
For service to you.

The Chaplain-General gives him a long hard look and then turns back to the cross and raises his arms.

Duncan knows the interview is over and leaves.

11. INT. -- CORRIDOR OUTSIDE THE CHURCH -- DAY
11.

Duncan comes out of the church and finds Julia waiting near the door. She gives him a flirtatious look.

JULIA
It didn't go well?

He stops.

DUNCAN
What?

JULIA
(teasing)
Your -- religious studies.

DUNCAN
(angry)
There's very little religion in
there.

With a brief nod, he strides away leaving her thoughtful.

The Chaplain-General comes out of the church and after a quick glance up and down the corridor, smiles at her.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
I wasn't expecting you so soon.

JULIA
I know, but I missed you.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
Did you see Duncan?

JULIA
Yes, why?

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
No reason.

JULIA
I think you should be careful of him.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
Why?

JULIA
He seems upset about something and I think it'd be better to have him with you rather than against you.

He gives her a long, appraising look.

12. INT. -- PALACE CORRIDOR -- DAY
12.

Ferdinand, carrying a parcel, hurries along the corridor. He turns into the corridor outside the church and sees the Chaplain-General with Julia.

13. INT. -- CORRIDOR OUTSIDE THE CHURCH -- DAY
13.

The Chaplain-General has his hand on Julia's arm and is smiling at her.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
We should get together soon -- somewhere more private.

Before Ferdinand can turn around, the Chaplain-General sees him, dismisses Julia and stands waiting. Ferdinand has to approach his brother.

The Chaplain-General eyes the parcel but doesn't refer to it.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
Where are you going?

FERDINAND
To see Margarete.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

Why?

FERDINAND

To persuade her to come with us when we go back on operations.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

What?!

FERDINAND

She's been a widow for quite a while now and...

Ferdinand glances down the corridor in the direction taken by Julia.

FERDINAND

(continuing)

There are a lot of temptations here.

He starts to become agitated.

FERDINAND

I -- we can't tolerate that.

The Chaplain-General grabs his elbow and steers him into the church.

14. INT. -- PALACE CHURCH -- DAY
14.

The Chaplain-General guides Ferdinand to the centre near the cross.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

Much as I may dislike the idea, she does a good job here. If she comes with us, who will run Malfi?

FERDINAND

The Steward of the Household is quite...

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

(cutting in; shocked)

André! He's from Ramdala!

FERDINAND

Her husband was from Ramdala...

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

(cutting in)

And had to be -- neutralized.

FERDINAND
André's loyalty has never been...

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
(cutting in)
I won't have a Ramdalian holding that
much power.

The Chaplain-General, knowing why Ferdinand wants
Margarete to accompany them, gives him a long look.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
Besides, there is no place for
personal relationships...

FERDINAND
(cutting in; outraged)
What about your Julia?

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
(continuing)
On military operations.

Ferdinand is about to protest but the Chaplain-General
continues.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
But it might be good for both of us
to know what's going on here while
we're away. So I suggest you hire
Duncan MacKay to keep you informed.

FERDINAND
I thought Duncan belonged to you.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
(regretful)
I can't be seen to use him.

FERDINAND
If you hadn't used him to
"neutralize"...

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
(cutting in)
Enough!

Ferdinand understands and moves on.

FERDINAND
Duncan won't come cheaply.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
Offer him the Provisor of the Horse.

The Chaplain-General smiles maliciously

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
He won't be able to resist it.

FERDINAND
That's true. I'll do it. But I'm
going to visit Margarete first.

He turns and heads for an exit while the Chaplain-General watches him with disapproval and concern.

15. INT. -- MARGARETE'S APARTMENT -- DAY
15.

The room is large, simply but comfortably furnished.

Margarete sits on a cushioned, bench-like projection of a wall while André relaxes in a nearby chair. This is obviously a personal visit rather than a business visit.

There is the sound of a distant chime. A moment later the door opens and Caroline enters, smiles at André and addresses Margarete.

CAROLINE
The Field Marshal's in the ante-room,
ma'am.

Margarete covers her irritation and rises, as does André who buttons up his tunic. There is now a formal atmosphere in the room.

MARGARETE
Tell him to come in.

Caroline leaves. André picks up a file of papers from a desk.

ANDRÉ
Will that be all, ma'am?

There is a minor whirlwind as Ferdinand, carrying his parcel, sweeps into the room with Caroline trailing behind attempting to announce him.

CAROLINE
(trailing off)
Ma'am, the Field Marshal...

MARGARETE
(to André)
Yes.

ANDRÉ

Thank you, ma'am.

He turns to acknowledge Ferdinand.

ANDRÉ

Sir.

FERDINAND

Yes, yes, carry on.

With an almost imperceptible glance at Margarete, André leaves.

Ferdinand takes Margarete by the arm and guides her towards a door leading outside.

FERDINAND

Come outside where the light is better.

16. EXT. -- MARGARETE'S PRIVATE TERRACE -- DAY
16.

The third floor terrace is a large open area bounded on two sides by a low walls and on the other two by the palace walls rising another two storeys.

Large tubs containing century plants, oleanders, and yuccas, are arranged so that the terrace feels like a garden. Bougainvilleas and jasmine climb the palace walls.

Ferdinand, still carrying his parcel, leads Margarete out of her apartment onto the terrace. Although he keeps walking, she stops a few steps from the door.

When he stops and turns to her Margarete tries to distract him.

MARGARETE

I understand the operations were a great success.

FERDINAND

Yes, yes...

MARGARETE

(cutting in)

I managed to secure a settlement with Ramdala so that our water...

FERDINAND

(cutting in)

I know. The Chaplain-General and I
will check it over in a day or two.

As Margarete suppresses her fury, Ferdinand holds out
the parcel.

FERDINAND

Come and see what I have for you.

She forces a pleasant smile but holds her ground.

MARGARETE

Open it.

Ferdinand hesitates for a moment and then giving in,
begins to open the parcel as he walks back to her. He
reveals a bolt of beautiful silk which he begins to
unfold and then drape over her shoulder. He is
genuinely excited about giving her this gift.

Margarete can't help admiring the fabric but is less
enthusiastic about receiving it.

FERDINAND

See -- I knew it would suit you.

MARGARETE

It's very beautiful.

Ferdinand changes the way he is holding the cloth.

FERDINAND

It really sets off your eyes.

Margarete again tries to distract him.

MARGARETE

Where did you get it?

Ferdinand is very pleased she is responding to his
attentions.

FERDINAND

When you're in foreign places you
come across these things. And I
thought of you.

Margarete is getting uncomfortable.

MARGARETE

That's very thoughtful of you, but I...

To Margarete's relief, Caroline steps out onto the terrace.

CAROLINE
Excuse me, ma'am, sir.
Ferdinand is not pleased by the interruption.

FERDINAND
What is it?

CAROLINE
(ignoring Ferdinand)
Ma'am, Duncan MacKay is at the door.

MARGARETE
What does he want with me?

CAROLINE
Nothing, ma'am. He wishes to see the Field Marshal.

FERDINAND
Tell him to go away.

CAROLINE
Sir, he says the Chaplain-General sent him to see you.

Ferdinand suppresses his frustration.

FERDINAND
Very well.

With a last lingering look at Margarete he leaves.

Caroline and Margarete exchange glances as he goes.

17. INT. -- CORRIDOR OUTSIDE MARGARETE'S QUARTERS -- DAY
17.

Ferdinand emerges from Margarete's quarters and finds Duncan waiting for him.

FERDINAND
What do you want?

DUNCAN
The Chaplain-General told me to report to you.

FERDINAND
(irritated)
Right now?

DUNCAN

Yes sir. He said "immediately".

Ferdinand realizes the Chaplain-General has foiled him.

FERDINAND

Bugger.

DUNCAN

Yes sir.

Ferdinand starts walking along the corridor and Duncan follows.

FERDINAND

I understand you haven't been able to return to your regiment.

DUNCAN

(stonily)

No sir.

Ferdinand reaches into an inside pocket and pulls out a small bag of coins which he hands to Duncan.

FERDINAND

They're gold -- untraceable.

DUNCAN

Whose throat must I cut?

Ferdinand smiles.

FERDINAND

You're getting ahead of me.

They walk through the wide smooth-walled passage towards a sun-lit exit.

FERDINAND

I want you to watch Margarete.

DUNCAN

The Governor-General?! Haven't I done enough to...

FERDINAND

(cutting in)

She has a lot of power here while the Chaplain-General and I are away.

DUNCAN

(cutting in)

She ran Malfi very well while you...

FERDINAND

(continuing)

So I want to know everything about her. In particular, who's personally interested in her and if she's interested in them.

Duncan gives him an uncertain glance.

FERDINAND

(cutting in)

I won't have her marrying again.

Since this isn't his usual line of work, Duncan is feeling uncomfortable.

Ferdinand stops and looks at him for a moment.

FERDINAND

This morning I got you the position of Provisor of the Horse.

Duncan looks shocked.

DUNCAN

Provisor of the...?

FERDINAND

(cutting in)

Haven't you heard?

It is a position Duncan has dreamed of, but he knows it comes with a cost.

DUNCAN

No.

FERDINAND

It's yours.

Ferdinand starts walking again.

FERDINAND

That's worth something, isn't it?

Duncan, excited by the promotion, but unhappy about the price to be paid, starts to follow him.

DUNCAN

(trailing off)

Yes. (pause) And in return I'm to be your....

FERDINAND
Facilitator. It's a good position.

Duncan remains silent.

FERDINAND
(continuing)
And in time you can go even higher.

Duncan thrusts the bag of gold pieces at Ferdinand.

DUNCAN
No. I'm a soldier.
Ferdinand ignoring the bag, stops and confronts him.

FERDINAND
Think carefully -- Provisor of the Horse.

Ferdinand watches Duncan struggle with himself as his ambition overwhelms him and he surrenders to it.

DUNCAN
(glumly)
I'll do it.

Ferdinand nods.

FERDINAND
Good. On your way then.

Ferdinand resumes walking through the passage, while disgusted with himself, Duncan turns down a side corridor.

18. EXT. -- MARGARETE'S PRIVATE TERRACE -- EVENING
18.

Margarete sits at a small table, looking off into the distance as the sun sets over the wild landscape.

Ferdinand's gift is lying folded on the edge of one of the large planters near her.

As Caroline comes out of the apartment carrying a tray with tea, which she places on the small table, Margarete looks up and nods at her to sit down with her.

Caroline pours tea into two cups and hands one of them to Margarete.

CAROLINE

You don't look very happy, ma'am.

They both sip their tea in silence.

MARGARETE

(frustrated)

It's so damnably unfair. I get everything working well here and then my brothers return and it all grinds to a halt.

Margarete gives Caroline a steady look.

MARGARETE

I can hardly wait until they leave again.

Caroline glances at Ferdinand's gift.

CAROLINE

Yes ma'am.

Margarete sees her glance and smiles.

MARGARETE

(trailing off)

That's not the only reason. When they're here, I'm reduced to...

She gestures at the empty table and then gives Caroline a long look.

MARGARETE

And I still miss my husband.

Caroline glances at her and raises the unmentionable.

CAROLINE

You have André.

MARGARETE

Yes. But it's not the same. I miss being married, so...

She is interrupted by a sudden commotion at the entrance to the terrace.

They both rise as Ferdinand and the Chaplain-General enter and stride up to them.

FERDINAND

What were you saying?

MARGARETE

Nothing.

FERDINAND

I heard you say something about...

The Chaplain-General has also caught "married" but moves to control Ferdinand.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
(cutting in; to Caroline)

Leave us.

Caroline gives Margarete a worried glance but Margarete smiles reassuringly and Caroline leaves.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
(continuing; to Margarete)
We're returning to Ramdala tomorrow
to ratify the settlement...

MARGARETE

(cutting in; furious)

It's already signed and sealed!

The Chaplain-General, having "got" her, ignores her outburst.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
(continuing)

And to ensure that it's properly
observed.

Ferdinand, oblivious to situation, spots the ignored, folded cloth.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
(continuing)

So you'll be on your own again,
probably for some time.

MARGARETE

I'm more than happy to be -- of
service.

Hurt, Ferdinand picks up the abandoned silk and begins fingering it.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
(to Margarete; trailing off)
Happy. I wonder...

MARGARETE

I'm perfectly capable of running
Malfi in your absence.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

I know, but I wonder if you enjoy the
power too much.

MARGARETE

You enjoy your power, so why...

FERDINAND

(cutting in)

But you're a widow and you know what
men are like.

MARGARETE

(annoyed)

What's that got to do with me
governing Malfi?

The Chaplain-General realizes he is losing the
argument and with a sidelong glance at Ferdinand,
takes a different tack.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

(to Margarete)

As moral leader for Malfi, I insist
that you must be an inspiration to
the people. There mustn't be even a
hint of a scandal.

This registers on Ferdinand and his attention turns
from the silk to the conversation.

Margarete, knowing about the Chaplain-General's
relationship with Julia, gives him a hard look.

MARGARETE

Of course not.

The Chaplain-General, feeling uneasy at not being in
control, gives her a hard look.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

Perhaps I should leave Ferdinand here
-- to help you.

Margarete looks shocked and angry while Ferdinand is
now torn between his lust for battle and his lust for
his sister.

FERDINAND

(agitated)

I must be at the front if the truce fails.

Then he looks at his sister.

FERDINAND
(softening; trailing off)
Although -- I suppose -- if you think it's my duty...

He is now quite agitated and fondles the silk gift.

Margarete gives the Chaplain-General a steady look.

MARGARETE
As I said, I'm perfectly capable of running Malfi in your absence.

The Chaplain-General doesn't answer.

MARGARETE
Have you heard anything to the contrary?

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
(reluctantly)
No.

MARGARETE
I have the support of the people.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
(grudgingly)
I know.

FERDINAND
I know how to handle the people too.

The Chaplain-General mentally rolls his eyes and backs off on his threat to Margarete.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
(to Ferdinand)
I think I need you with me.

Ferdinand preens at being seen as a warrior and then realizes he won't be near Margarete.

FERDINAND
(to Margarete)
There must be no more talk of marriage.

MARGARETE

(irritated)
There hasn't been talk of marriage!

The Chaplain-General gives her a cautionary look then turns to Ferdinand.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
(to Ferdinand)
We've got a lot to do.

Ferdinand puts the bolt of silk down and smiles at Margarete.

FERDINAND
You should have something nice made
for you for when we return.

The Chaplain-General and Ferdinand leave.

19. EXT. -- ENTRANCE TO THE PALACE OF MALFI -- MORNING
19.

The heavy timber gates swing open. Guards salute as a convoy of vehicles, the second of which is a staff car carrying the Chaplain-General and Field Marshal Ferdinand, roars out and heads in the direction of Ramdala.

20. EXT. -- MARGARETE'S PRIVATE TERRACE -- MORNING
20.

Margarete and Caroline, holding mugs of coffee, stand looking over the low wall at the surrounding countryside where some of the irrigation sprinklers are already in action.

MARGARETE
They're still not all operational.

CAROLINE
Not yet. But more are coming on line
everyday.

They are interrupted by the sound of the convoy passing along the road beneath them. Margarete spots the Chaplain-General and Ferdinand.

MARGARETE
Are they on their way to Ramdala?

CAROLINE
Yes, ma'am.

Margarete is momentarily annoyed.

MARGARETE

Without a word to...

But quickly realizing she is on her own again, she smiles and turns to Caroline.

MARGARETE

I've got my job back.

CAROLINE

Yes ma'am.

Margarete turns and heads across the terrace towards her quarters.

MARGARETE

Come on, we've got things to do.

21. INT. -- PUMP HOUSE -- AFTERNOON

21.

Margarete, accompanied by Caroline, is walking amidst a network of pipes, valves and humming pumps, and talking to an ENGINEER who is impressed by the Governor-General's interest.

ENGINEER

We've replaced or repaired six of the impellers.

MARGARETE

But you still have more to do.

ENGINEER

Yes, they're being trucked in from Mogandor and should be here in a couple of days. We'll install them right away.

MARGARETE

Good. Well, thank you very much.

ENGINEER

Thank you, ma'am.

22. EXT. -- PUMP HOUSE -- AFTERNOON

22.

The pump house is a single story building in the same style as the palace complex.

A door opens and the engineer escorts Margarete and Caroline to their parked 4 x 4. Caroline climbs

behind the wheel, Margarete sits beside her, and Caroline fires up the engine.

MARGARETE
 (to the engineer)
 Thank you again, that was very helpful.

ENGINEER
 (genuinely)
 It was my pleasure.

He touches his hat as the vehicle pulls away.

ANGLE ON:

As the 4 x 4 rounds a corner to head in the direction of the guarded gate in the chain link fence, Margarete and Caroline are surprised to find Duncan on his horse blocking their way.

Caroline stops and Duncan moves his horse alongside Margarete and politely touches his cap.

DUNCAN
 Good afternoon, ma'am. I was coming to see...

MARGARETE
 (cutting in)
 What are you doing here?

DUNCAN
 I'm now Provisor of the Horse, and have the rank to be here.

MARGARETE
 Oh. Well -- congratulations on your promotion.

DUNCAN
 Thank you ma'am. The Chaplain-General and Field Marshal Ferdinand have left for Ramdala.

MARGARETE
 Yes.

DUNCAN
 They left this for you.

He hands Margarete a sealed envelope.

MARGARETE

Thank you.

DUNCAN

Very good, ma'am.

He touches his hat again, turns his horse and canters towards the gate.

Margarete opens and reads the letter and then nods to Caroline who puts the 4 x 4 into gear.

MARGARETE

(sardonic)

They're away again and expect me to do my duty.

ANGLE ON:

The guard on the gate opens it for Duncan and then holds it for Margarete and Caroline. He salutes as they pass through.

23. EXT. -- ROAD OUTSIDE PUMP HOUSE -- AFTERNOON
23.

Margarete and Caroline pass Duncan on his horse. Once they are safely past him, Margarete shifts to see him in the side mirror.

MARGARETE

What do you know about that man?

CAROLINE

I understand he's very brave and very ambitious.

MARGARETE

Ambitious.

CAROLINE

Yes, ma'am. Apparently he'll do just about anything to get ahead.

Margarete nods.

CAROLINE

He even did time in a labour battalion for some service to the Chaplain-General.

MARGARETE

Does he still work for the Chaplain-General?

CAROLINE

I don't think so, but I'm sure the he
still supports him.

Margarete nods thoughtfully.

24. EXT. -- MARGARETE'S PRIVATE TERRACE -- EVENING
24.

Margarete is sitting on a small bench amidst the
plants of her private garden when Caroline leads André
through the door onto the terrace and stops.

Smiling, André walks through the greenery to
Margarete.
Caroline turns back into the apartment.

ANDRÉ
You wanted to see me?

MARGARETE
(smiling)
Yes.

She pats the bench beside her and André sits.

ANDRÉ
I've been talking to the irrigation
engineers -- they really appreciated
your visit.

MARGARETE
They've got a difficult job.

She gives him a long steady look and he senses this is
more than just a casual visit.

Margarete makes her decision.

MARGARETE
You've been working for me for some
time now.

André is not sure where this is going or how formal he
should be.

ANDRÉ
Yes -- ma'am.

Margarete notices his quandary and smiles.

MARGARETE
And more recently -- you've been
happy with the -- arrangement?

ANDRÉ
 (trailing off)
 Our personal...?

Margarete nods and smiles. André relaxing slightly,
 takes her hand.

ANDRÉ
 Yes! Of course! I wouldn't have...

MARGARETE
 (cutting in)
 Good. Because I've become very --
 fond...

ANDRÉ
 (cutting in; teasing)
 Fond?

It is now Margarete's turn to be slightly off balance.

MARGARETE
 Well -- in love with you...

ANDRÉ
 (cutting in; genuinely)
 Me too. In love with you I mean --
 I'm in...

Margarete saves him with a smile.

MARGARETE
 (trailing off)
 I know. But I also know in your
 position you can't do anything about
 that. So...

André waits, unsure where this is leading.

Margarete produces a gold ring.

MARGARETE
 It was my wedding ring. I vowed
 never to part with it -- except to my
 second husband.

She offers it to André.

ANDRÉ
 (shocked)
 What are you saying?

Margarete slips the ring onto his finger.

MARGARETE
I'm proposing marriage.

André is getting worried.

ANDRÉ
Marriage!

Margarete is taken aback by his reaction.

MARGARETE
Yes. I thought you'd at least be...

ANDRÉ
(cutting in)
I do love you -- but I'm your Steward
of the Household!

MARGARETE
I'm appealing to you as a young
widow, not a governor.

ANDRÉ
(continuing)
And I'm from Ramdala...

MARGARETE
(cutting in)
So was my first husband.

ANDRÉ
But the way things are right now...

MARGARETE
(cutting in)
Let me be the judge of that.

André smiles, flattered by Margarete's attention.

ANDRÉ
What about your brothers?

MARGARETE
The Chaplain-General will be furious
because he'll think he's losing
control and Ferdinand will be madly
jealous. But don't worry about them,
only our love matters...

ANDRÉ
(cutting in)
I should have said that.

MARGARETE

(continuing; smiling)
 And I'll deal with them when the time
 is right.

ANDRÉ
 But a state wedding -- they'll hear
 about it immediately.

MARGARETE
 I'm not thinking of a state wedding -
 - at least not right away. (pause)
 The law says that per verba di
 presenti -- when a couple declare to
 each other that they are man and wife
 -- they are legally married even if
 it is officially frowned on.

Although André is in love with Margarete he is
 becoming decidedly worried about getting in over his
 head.

ANDRÉ
 But your brother is the Chaplain-
 General.

MARGARETE
 Once they've come around, we can have
 a religious wedding.
 André looks relieved.

ANDRÉ
 Yes, that could work. (pause) But
 I've heard they might be away for
 quite a while.

MARGARETE
 We'll just have to be careful about
 your coming and going. Caroline will
 help with that.

André starting to feel much better, rises, takes
 Margarete's hands and drawing her to her feet embraces
 her.

ANDRÉ
 At least my job means I can always be
 here.

They kiss. And then, André holds up his hand,
 indicating the ring.

ANDRÉ
 I'll wear it on a gold chain around
 my neck so that it rests here.

He taps his chest.

MARGARETE

Kneel.

ANDRÉ

What?

MARGARETE

Kneel.

Margarete makes a small wave towards the apartment door, then pulls him down so that they both face each other on their knees and look steadily into each other's eyes.

Caroline steps onto the terrace and watches.

MARGARETE

Let God bless our union and let
nothing tear it apart.

ANDRÉ

And may our love be as eternal as the
universe.

They kiss.

MARGARETE

How could the church improve on this?
We are now man and wife. (to
Caroline) And you are our witness
before God.

She rises and André follows.
Caroline looks worried but smiles through.

CAROLINE

I hope you will both be very happy
together.

MARGARETE & ANDRÉ

Thank you.

Margarete smiles flirtatiously at André, takes his arm
and they walk together into her apartment.

DISSOLVE TO:

25. INT. -- MARGARETE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT
25.

Margarete and André lie in bed together. Although half asleep, Margarete stares at the ceiling and then turns to André.

MARGARETE

When I visited the pump house -- I was followed by Duncan.

ANDRÉ

(suddenly awake)

What?

Margarete smiles at him.

MARGARETE

It was all right. He had a message from my brothers. But he's been promoted to Provisor of the Horse.

ANDRÉ

I know.

MARGARETE

I don't think I trust him.

ANDRÉ

I don't like him very much.

MARGARETE

I think we'll have to be very careful around him.

ANDRÉ

Yes.

After a pause, he smiles at her.

ANDRÉ

Maybe you should banish him.

MARGARETE

(smiling back)

I don't think I can do that.

Then she grows serious.

MARGARETE

But since his promotion I could send him on fact finding tours.

André laughs quietly.

ANDRÉ

That's not a bad idea. He could do a study of defence policies for Mogandor and after he's reported back, you could send him to do the same for Nabata.

MARGARETE

(smiling)

That'd keep him out of our hair for quite a while.

André nods. Margarete considers this for a moment, then:

MARGARETE

I'll do it. You'll have to write up the orders first thing tomorrow morning.

ANDRÉ

Yes boss.

They embrace.

FADE OUT

26. EXT. -- HILLOCK OUTSIDE RAMDALA -- NIGHT
26.

It is some two years later.

Ferdinand sits on a rock on the side of the hillock listening to the distant howling of coyotes.

He becomes aware of a dark figure coming up the trail towards him. He checks that his revolver is handy but doesn't draw it.

Then he recognizes his brother.

FERDINAND

Will, what are you doing here?

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

(trailing off)

I couldn't find you in your quarters
SO...

The Chaplain-General sits down beside Ferdinand.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

I've never understood your penchant
for sitting out like this.

FERDINAND
(friendly)

I find it relaxing...

A coyote howls from close by.

FERDINAND
(continuing)

And at the same time quite
stimulating.

His brother nods.

FERDINAND

You wanted to see me, is there a
problem?

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

No, everything seems to be under
control here, and the official
reports from Malfi are all positive.
(pause) But it's been a long time
since we've been there and I was
wondering if you have any --
unofficial information.

FERDINAND

No, I don't.

He begins to show signs of agitation.

FERDINAND

Do you think something's wrong with
Margarete?

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

No. But I can't help worrying when
I'm not there to guide things.

Ferdinand give his brother a knowing look.

FERDINAND

You can't control everything.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

Yes, I can.

They sit together in silence, then:

FERDINAND

Maybe we should go back for a short
visit. Just to reassure you.

The Chaplain-General gives him a knowing sidelong glance.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

I think it'd be better for us to be seen here -- in command.

FERDINAND

But things are stable, so...

The Chaplain-General cuts him off with a look.

FERDINAND

It was just a thought.

Again they sit quietly together for a moment and then there is another, even closer howl from a coyote. The Chaplain-General shivers but Ferdinand is revived.

FERDINAND

I'll contact Duncan and...

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

He hasn't been in Malfi very much lately.

FERDINAND

I know, but he's back now so I'll have him keep an even closer watch on everything.

The Chaplain-General rises, pats his brother on the shoulder and heads back down the trail to the growing accompaniment of coyote howls.

27. INT. -- CORRIDOR NEAR THE GG'S QUARTERS -- NIGHT
27.

Duncan, carrying a flashlight which he only uses intermittently, moves stealthily along the dimly lit corridor.

He stops to listen but there is nothing and he continues walking.

After two steps, a dark figure steps out of a side passage and they almost collide. They both jump back.

DUNCAN

Shit!

He shines his light on the figure of André.

DUNCAN

André!

André is drawing his dagger.

DUNCAN

André it's me, Duncan MacKay.

ANDRÉ

Duncan!

Duncan continues to shine his light in André's eyes.

André is not pleased to see Duncan, but covering well, steps forward and pushes Duncan's flashlight aside. Duncan switches it off.

There is an unspoken tension between them.

ANDRÉ

What're you doing prowling around at this time of night?

Duncan looks at him suspiciously.

DUNCAN

I could ask you the same thing.

ANDRÉ

I'm the Steward of the Household it's my job to be prowling around.

DUNCAN

And I'm the Provisor of the Horse. I can be...

André changes the subject.

ANDRÉ

(cutting in)

Did you hear a noise?

DUNCAN

From where?

ANDRÉ

From near the Governor-General's quarters.

DUNCAN

No. Did you?

ANDRÉ

I'm not sure.

Duncan takes André's arm and tries to walk back in the direction André came from.

DUNCAN

Let's check.

André remains where he is.

ANDRÉ

No I've already done that -- it was probably the wind.

Duncan, not believing him, stops.

DUNCAN

Yes, probably. (feigning concern)
Are you all right? You're sweating
in spite of the cold.

ANDRÉ

I'm fine.

He starts to walk along the corridor in the direction Duncan was originally heading. To André's annoyance, Duncan follows.

ANDRÉ

Be careful or 'Provisor of the Horse'
or not, I'll have you put on charge.

Duncan snorts.

There is a sense that a fight might break out, but André continues walking, with Duncan following.

André reaches a locked door to Margarete's quarters, pulls a ring of keys from his pocket and, without realizing it, drops a paper on which an horoscope is written. He searches the ring for the right key.

Duncan, having seen André drop the paper, remains where he is, hoping André will leave without it.

André finds the key, enters and closes the door behind him.

Once Duncan hears the door lock, he switches on his light, searches around, picks up the paper and unfolds it.

DUNCAN

(disparaging)

It's a horoscope! (reading) for the second birthday of the son born to Margarete between the hours of twelve and one, in the night -- that's tonight! (reading) taken according to the meridian of Malfi -- that's our Governor-General!

Thrilled with his discovery, Duncan skims the rest of the document.

DUNCAN

That superstitious Ramdalian asshole's the Governor-General's go-between!

He quickly rereads the document looking for clues.

DUNCAN

But who's the father?

Finding nothing, he carefully puts the document in an inside pocket and heads back the way he came.

28. INT. -- MARGARETE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

28.

André enters and finds Caroline helping Margarete hang "Happy Birthday Edward" streamers and other decorations around the room.

ANDRÉ

It looks very nice.

Margarete senses that André is not quite himself.

MARGARETE

Is everything all right?

ANDRÉ

Oh yes.

He begins helping with the decorating.

ANDRÉ

I ran into Duncan just now.

Margarete looks surprised.

MARGARETE

Where?

ANDRÉ

Just outside.

MARGARETE

What did he want?

ANDRÉ

I don't know.

There is a concerned silence that he tries to lighten.

ANDRÉ

(smiling)

I know you'll laugh at me, and call me superstitious, but I had Edward's horoscope cast.

Margarete, although not superstitious, is touched by this.

MARGARETE

(smiling)

What does it say?

ANDRÉ

I'll read it to all of you tomorrow morning when Edward is up.

29. INT. -- CHAPLAIN-GENERAL'S STUDY, RAMDALA --
AFTERNOON 29.

It is the next day.

The room is large, comfortably furnished and constructed of the same type of smooth stucco as the palace of Malfi, but has Gothic style windows.

There are shelves of books and a number of religious symbols appropriate to a prelate. The Chaplain-General's desk is piled with unfinished work.

Julia has just arrived and the Chaplain-General gestures towards a comfortable settee and they sit down together.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

I wasn't expecting you.

JULIA

I missed you.

The Chaplain-General smiles with his mouth but not his eyes and takes her hand.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

How did you manage to come to Ramdala
without your husband?

JULIA

I told him I came to visit an old
theologian, for -- spiritual reasons.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

You are a clever liar.

The Chaplain-General moves closer to her.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

You should've let me know you were
coming.

JULIA

I wanted to surprise you.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

I don't like surprises.

JULIA

Why not?

The Chaplain-General looks at her for a moment.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

You shouldn't let your -- guilty
conscience -- get the better of you.

JULIA

(surprised)

What are you talking about?

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

You think I might be unfaithful
because you see it in yourself.

Julia begins to weep.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

Why are you crying?

He wipes at her tears with the corner of a silk throw.

JULIA

You used to say you loved me so much
you were almost ill.

There is a polite knock on the door and the Chaplain-
General hurriedly rises.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
(to Julia)

Who's that?

Julia shrugs and the Chaplain-General crosses back to his desk.

There is another polite knock.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
Enter.

An AIDE enters and addresses the Chaplain-General.

AIDE
Sir, Field Marshal Ferdinand is here
to see you.

Before the Chaplain-General can respond, Ferdinand sweeps into the room brandishing piece of paper.

FERDINAND
(to the aide; sharply)
That's all.

The aide leaves.

FERDINAND
(to the Chaplain-General; trailing
off)
Look at what I've just received...
He spots Julia, stops himself and glares at her.

The Chaplain-General nods to her. She rises and slips out the door.

Ferdinand thrusts the document at the Chaplain-General.

FERDINAND
(raging)
Our damned sister has a -- bastard
offspring!

Shocked, the Chaplain-General takes the paper and begins to read, while Ferdinand becomes increasingly agitated.

FERDINAND
(shouting)
Damn her!

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
Calm down.

Ferdinand paces until his brother has finished reading.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
(trailing off)

Well...!

FERDINAND
(his voice rises)
Our damned sister!

He begins striding around the room again.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
(rationally)
She's only a problem if she causes
the people to stray from the church.
I won't stand for that.

Ferdinand stops in front of his brother.

FERDINAND
(angry)
What do you care about religion?

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
(practical)
If nothing else, it's our basis of
power. And you benefit from that as
much as I do.

Almost distraught, Ferdinand resumes his manic pacing.

FERDINAND
What am I going to do?

The Chaplain-General realizes the situation could get out of control unless he can help his brother.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
(firmly)
First of all, you must get a grip on
yourself.

FERDINAND
(with mounting passion)
I can see her with some muscle-bound
guard or athlete or...

The Chaplain-General gazes steadily at Ferdinand, who struggling to regain his self-control, gradually calms down.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
(continuing)

And then we'll go back to Malfi to
see for ourselves.

Almost back to normal, Ferdinand nods in relief.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
Are you all right now?

FERDINAND
Yes.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
Then I'll order transport for
tomorrow.

He crosses to his desk and picks up a phone.

30. EXT. -- COUNTRY ROAD NEAR MALFI -- EARLY EVENING
30.

It is the next day and a small convoy rumbles through
the barren countryside with the Chaplain-General and
Ferdinand sitting together in the back of an open
staff car.

Both lost in thought, the Chaplain-General and
Ferdinand gaze off into the distance.

Ferdinand grunts, his agitation begins to mount, and
he turns to his brother.

FERDINAND
We must use desperate measures.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
What are you talking about?

FERDINAND
(his voice rising)
Margarete!
The Chaplain-General glances at the driver but
realizes he is probably too far away to hear over the
noise of the vehicle.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
Control yourself!

Ferdinand speaks with an almost sexual intensity.

FERDINAND
We must lance the boil to release the
poison!

The Chaplain-General again glances at the driver.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
Have you gone completely mad?

Ferdinand struggles to gain control of himself.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
You're making a fool of yourself.

FERDINAND
But aren't you infuriated too?

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
Yes, of course I am.

FERDINAND
(continuing)
She's a threat to you too.

The Chaplain-General puts his hand on Ferdinand's arm and gives him a hard look.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
I can be angry without all this --
fury. Remember, "revenge is a dish
best served cold".

Nodding, Ferdinand takes this in.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
I think we should keep an eye on her
for a few days and then decide what
to do.

FERDINAND
Yes.

The Chaplain-General points to the Palace of Malfi looming in the distance.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
We're almost there. Are you going to
be all right or should I order a
stop?

Ferdinand is exhausted.

FERDINAND
No, I'm all right now.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
Good.

Ferdinand slumps in his seat.

31. EXT. -- COURTYARD IN MALFI -- EVENING
31.

Duncan stands in the shadows of the arched cloister and watches Ferdinand enter the courtyard from the opposite side.

Ferdinand, looking around for Duncan, starts across the courtyard. As he reaches the raised pool, Duncan moves out of the shadows and crosses the courtyard to join him.

DUNCAN

Sir.

FERDINAND

What've you found out?

DUNCAN

(trailing off)

Nothing new. There's an illegitimate son, but the father...?

He shrugs. Ferdinand, lost in thought, starts to walk across the courtyard. Duncan follows, looks at his face and decides not to interrupt.

FERDINAND

Did you get a key to her quarters?

DUNCAN

Yes.

FERDINAND

Good.

He holds out his hand and Duncan, looking worried, hands him a lanyard with a key attached.

DUNCAN

What're you going to do?

FERDINAND

That's my business.

Duncan nods.

32. EXT. -- SMALL KNOLL NEAR MALFI -- NIGHT
32.

Agitated, Ferdinand twirls the key on its lanyard as he strides up the knoll.

He finds a large rock and still twirling the key sits, gazing across at the palace.

From behind him a coyote howls. Then from his left there is another howl and then one from the right.

He becomes aware of dark shapes gathering around him as the chorus of howls increases and begins to relax. His key twirling diminishes and stops.

Sitting quietly, the agitation on his face changes to a hard, cool resolve.

He rises and with the coyote chorus around him, strides purposefully back down the slope towards the palace.

33. INT. -- CORRIDOR NEAR THE MARGARETE'S APARTMENT --
NIGHT 33.

Ferdinand hurries surreptitiously along the dim corridor on his way to Margarete. Hearing approaching footsteps, he steps into the shadowed recess of a door and draws his dagger.

A guard almost passes him but at the last moment spots him.

GUARD

Who's there?

Before the guard can defend himself, Ferdinand steps forward, covers the guard's mouth with one hand and wildly plunges the dagger into him with the other. The guard gasps and drops to the floor.

Ferdinand quickly drags the body into the recess where he had been hiding, wipes the dagger clean on the guard's uniform and continues along the corridor.

34. INT. -- THE MARGARETE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT
34.

Margarete sits at her desk signing the last of a pile of documents. There is a knock on her door.

MARGARETE

Come.

Caroline enters and closes the door behind her.

CAROLINE

André will be along in a few moments.
He's being extra careful since your
brothers returned.

MARGARETE

Good.

She gathers the documents together, puts them into a
diplomatic box and locks it.

CAROLINE

Is there anything else you need me to
do?

MARGARETE

No, thank you.

Caroline picks up the box.

CAROLINE

Good-night, ma'am.

MARGARETE

Good-night Caroline.

Caroline leaves with the box, and after she has left,
Margarete crosses to a dressing table and lets down
her hair.

There is a slight noise behind her and thinking André
has arrived, she turns around with a welcoming smile
which rapidly fades when she sees Ferdinand at the
door from her private terrace.

MARGARETE

What are you doing here?

Ferdinand can barely contain himself as he confronts
the one person he loves. With eyes blazing he hands
her a piece of paper.

FERDINAND

What's this?

She takes the paper, recognizes the lost horoscope,
and knows her life has changed forever.

MARGARETE

A horoscope.

FERDINAND

(anguished)

What have you done? A bastard son!

MARGARETE
 (outraged)
 He's not a "bastard", I am married!

Ferdinand is shocked.

FERDINAND
 Married!

MARGARETE
 Yes.
 With his agitation mounting, he strides around the room.

FERDINAND
 Married!

Margarete watches him silently as he struggles to regain his self-control and begins to calm down.

FERDINAND
 I don't believe it.

Since he is more calm, she speaks.

MARGARETE
 Would you like to meet my husband?

FERDINAND
 (calmly)
 Only to kill him.

Margarete remains silent, which doesn't calm Ferdinand who can't admit to his overpowering love for her.

FERDINAND
 (with growing intensity)
 You've destroyed your dead husband's honour and now you're trying to destroy mine.

MARGARETE
 Love doesn't dishonour...

FERDINAND
 (cutting in; almost shouting)
 It's not love, it's lust!!

He begins pacing the room as his agitation grows.

FERDINAND
 (continuing)

So keep your -- stud -- well hidden,
because if I find him I'll tear him
to pieces.

He stops in front of her, draws his dagger and --
slams it down on her dressing table with the tip
pointing at her.

FERDINAND

I can never see you again!

He sweeps out leaving Margarete to sit and struggle
with her emotions.

After a few moments André enters and realizes
something is wrong.

ANDRÉ

What's...?

MARGARETE

(cutting in)

Ferdinand was here.

ANDRÉ

What did he want?

MARGARETE

He knows about us -- well -- he knows
I'm married but not to whom. He left
me this.

She points at the dagger. They both understand that
she is meant to use it on herself.

ANDRÉ

(quietly)

You should have used it on him.

MARGARETE

You have to get away.

ANDRÉ

No, we'll deal with this together.

MARGARETE

It's too dangerous. At the very
least he'll have me put under
surveillance. You must save Edward!

ANDRÉ

Of course.

André crosses to her, she rises and they embrace.

MARGARETE

Go to Ancona and I'll join you there.

35. EXT. -- SMALL KNOLL NEAR MALFI -- NIGHT
35.

As Duncan rides his horse down the knoll towards Malfi, he spots the dark figure of Ferdinand striding uphill towards him.

FERDINAND

Duncan?

DUNCAN

Sir.

Ferdinand waves his arms in the direction of Malfi.

FERDINAND

Interrogate her!

DUNCAN

Sir?

FERDINAND

Interrogate Margarete!

DUNCAN

Me sir?

FERDINAND

I order you to! She's defiled!
Ruined!

Duncan ignoring Ferdinand's emotional outburst, tries to clarify his mission.

DUNCAN

About her child's father?

FERDINAND

About her husband! Find out who he
is.

Duncan although surprised by this information reacts quickly.

DUNCAN

Where is she?

FERDINAND

In her quarters.

DUNCAN

Where will you be?

FERDINAND

I need air! I'll be on Wolf's Knoll.

Duncan nods, touches his hat in salute, and as he spurs on his horse, hears the coyotes begin to howl in the background.

36. INT. -- THE MARGARETE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT
36.

Margarete retrieves a sum of money from an open strongbox on her desk and hands it to André.

MARGARETE

This will keep you going until I can join you.

ANDRÉ

Come with me.

She shakes her head.

MARGARETE

If we both disappear they'll have search parties out immediately.

ANDRÉ

You'll have to have a story to cover my absence.

MARGARETE

I know. (pause) I'll tell them I fired you for some minor offence and I don't know or care where you are.

ANDRÉ

That might...

MARGARETE

(cutting in)

Hurry! You must save Edward.

André gives her a quick kiss and leaves.

37. INT. -- CORRIDOR NEAR THE MARGARETE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT 37.

Duncan hurries down the corridor towards Margarete's apartment.

He rounds a corner and in a door recess, discovers the body of the guard killed earlier by Ferdinand. A quick check tells him the guard is dead and looking thoughtful, he continues on.

38. INT. -- THE MARGARETE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT
38.

Thinking, Margarete paces the room for a few moments until Caroline enters through the staff entrance.

CAROLINE
(mystified)
André asked me to tell you he has Edward and is on his way.

MARGARETE
Thank God.

CAROLINE
What's going on?

MARGARETE
Ferdinand knows about Edward.

CAROLINE
Oh my god! And André?

MARGARETE
No. He knows I'm married but not to whom.

CAROLINE
What will you do now?

MARGARETE
I'm not sure. I wonder what William thinks.

CAROLINE
I can't see the Chaplain-General approving.

MARGARETE
(rueful)
No.

CAROLINE
If there's anything I can do to help.

MARGARETE
Thank you but...

There is a knock on the door and Margarete and Caroline look at each other without speaking.

Margarete nods to Caroline who goes to the door and peers through a peephole. She takes a step away from the door.

CAROLINE
(whispering)
It's Duncan MacKay.

MARGARETE
(surprised; whispering)
Duncan?

Caroline nods.

MARGARETE
Show him in.

Caroline opens the door and Duncan enters.

DUNCAN
Good evening, ma'am.

Margarete nods to him.

MARGARETE
How can I help you?

DUNCAN
Perhaps, ma'am, it's how can I help you.

Margarete give him a look.

MARGARETE
Help me?

DUNCAN
There's a rumour that you're --
"ruined".

Surprised, Margarete glances at Caroline, who looks worried, and then back to Duncan.

MARGARETE
"Ruined"!?

DUNCAN
Yes.

MARGARETE

In what way?

Duncan is at a bit of loss, so gambling that he doesn't know very much, Margarete manages a laugh.

MARGARETE

I think "ruined" is a bit of an overstatement.

DUNCAN

I'm relieved to hear that, ma'am. At the risk of sounding sycophantic, I think you did an excellent job governing Malfi while your brothers were away.

Margarete nods, and formulating a cover story, strolls to her roof-top terrace. Duncan and Caroline follow her.

39. EXT. -- MARGARETE'S PRIVATE TERRACE -- NIGHT
39.

Margarete strolls amongst the moonlit plants followed by Duncan while Caroline unobtrusively remains within earshot.

MARGARETE

There was an unfortunate situation but that's been resolved. I've dismissed my Steward of the Household.

Duncan is genuinely surprised.

DUNCAN

André!?

MARGARETE

Yes. He was negligent with the accounts.

Duncan struggles to absorb this revelation.

MARGARETE

You seem surprised.

DUNCAN

I am. I always thought he was very competent and completely trustworthy.

MARGARETE

And now?

DUNCAN

With respect, I find it difficult to believe. However he worked for you and if you feel he wasn't a hundred percent loyal you had no alternative.

MARGARETE

So you believe loyalty is important?

DUNCAN

Categorically.

Margarete stops, at one of the low walls, looks out over the wild, moonlit landscape for a few moments and then turns to Duncan.

MARGARETE

In many ways the two of you are quite similar.

Duncan looks surprised.

MARGARETE

(continuing)

Hardworking, ambitious and believing loyalty to be important.

Duncan notices the inconsistency in Margarete's evaluation and senses he is gaining her confidence.

DUNCAN

I take that as a complement ma'am.

Margarete glances at Caroline, who remains stony-faced, makes a decision and crosses back to Duncan.

MARGARETE

Would you be willing to be of service to me?

Duncan can hardly believe what he is hearing.

DUNCAN

I'd be honoured, ma'am.

MARGARETE

And if it involved helping André?

DUNCAN

I always considered him to be an honest soldier.

MARGARETE

Sometimes appearances can be
deceiving.

DUNCAN

Sometimes.

To give himself time to think, he now crosses to the
low wall and looks out over the surrounding land.

DUNCAN

But in this case, as you yourself
said, I think we really are similar -
- which makes me feel that I stand
accused as well.

MARGARETE

So you'd be willing to help both
André and myself.

DUNCAN

Yes.

Margarete makes her decision.

MARGARETE

Then I will tell you that André is my
husband and he has gone to Ancona
with our son.

Duncan is astonished that she is married to André, but
covers well.

DUNCAN

To Ancona!

MARGARETE

Yes. I'll follow them in a few days.

DUNCAN

You seem to have it well planned,
ma'am. How can I help?

MARGARETE

I have to find an excuse for leaving
Malfi.

Duncan paces, making a show of thinking carefully and
then stops.

DUNCAN

Ma'am, I think you should make an
official tour of inspection to
Loretto, which is quite close to

Ancona. That way your trip will seem like a state journey and you can take your retinue without arousing suspicion.

MARGARETE

Excellent. Will you make the arrangements?

DUNCAN

With your authorization.

MARGARETE

You have it.

DUNCAN

Thank you ma'am. I'll be on my way.

Duncan leaves and Margarete turns to Caroline.

MARGARETE

What choice to I have?

40. INT. -- CHAPLAIN-GENERAL'S OFFICE, MALFI -- DAY
40.

The office is quite large and luxurious in the style of Malfi.

The Chaplain-General, looking irritated, stands by a window reading a document until there is a polite knock on the door.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

Enter.

An aide enters.

AIDE

Field Marshal Ferdinand to see...

Before the aide can finish, Ferdinand sweeps in.

FERDINAND

(to the aide; dismissively)

Carry on.

The aide leaves.

FERDINAND

(continuing)

There's a problem?

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
Where's Margarete?

FERDINAND
Apparently she's on an official
inspection tour of Loretto.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
(surprised)
Why?

FERDINAND
I don't know. Is there a problem?

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
There seems to be some new tension in
Ramdala...

FERDINAND
(cutting in)
But we've only just left them.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
Maybe we've been a bit too harsh
with...

FERDINAND
(cutting in; angry)
We should've been tougher with them.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
It seems they want to consult with
the Governor-General.

He looks sternly at his brother.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
I want to know the instant she
arrives in Loretto.

FERDINAND
I can leave immediately.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
No, use your contacts.

Once again Ferdinand is foiled.

41. EXT. -- COUNTRY ROAD NEAR LORETTO -- DAY
41.

A small convoy of cars and trucks rumbles along the
road.

Duncan sits beside the driver in the first open car. Margarete and Caroline are in the second car and behind them is the rest of the retinue and their supplies.

As the convoy reaches a fork in the road, Duncan signals a stop, dismounts, walks back to Margarete's vehicle and indicates the turnoff.

DUNCAN
That will take you to Ancona.

MARGARETE
(surprised)
You're not coming with us?

DUNCAN
I'll go on to Loretto and explain that you've been delayed for a few days.

MARGARETE
Right. Will you join us in Ancona?

DUNCAN
I'll do my best.

Margarete nods, wondering if she can trust Duncan.

DUNCAN
(to Margarete)
Good luck, ma'am.

MARGARETE
Thank you.

She nods to her driver indicating the way to Ancona and Duncan returns to his vehicle and watches the convoy take the turnoff.

42. INT. -- CHAPLAIN-GENERAL'S OFFICE, MALFI -- NIGHT
42.

An aide-de-camp, who has brought some papers, stands respectfully watching the Chaplain-General study them at his desk.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
This is serious.

AIDE-DE-CAMP
Yes sir.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

The Field Marshal's on his way?

AIDE-DE-CAMP

Yes sir, he should be here any minute.

There is a disturbance at the door and Ferdinand enters, followed by Duncan who remains standing impassively in the background.

The Chaplain-General nods to the aide who leaves.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

(to Ferdinand)

There's more -- discontent -- in Ramdala. Has Margarete reached Loretto yet? I need her.

Ferdinand hands him a report from Duncan.

FERDINAND

You'd better read this first.

The Chaplain-General opens the report and begins to read it.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

So, she's married to André! (pause)
And the inspection tour was cover to get them to Ancona! Damn that man, you can never trust a Ramdalian.

Ferdinand, growing agitated, reaches for the report but the Chaplain-General controls him with a look and then addresses Duncan.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

You're quite sure?

DUNCAN

Absolutely sure, sir.

The Chaplain-General thinks for a moment and then:

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

Until we can disconnect André from her, Margarete is out of the picture, so I'll have to go back to Ramdala.

He looks steadily at Ferdinand.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

I want you to stay here -- in charge
of things.

Ferdinand nods and the responsibility seems to calm
him down.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
(continuing)

I'll contact Ancona and have them
banished.

Ferdinand's agitation begins to return.

FERDINAND
(agitation mounting)

That's a start but it's not enough!
It's not nearly enough!

The Chaplain-General gives him a hard look.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

Then you do something about them.
I've got my hands full.

Ferdinand is taken aback.

FERDINAND

What?

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

I leave that up to you.

43. EXT. -- A RESTING PLACE IN THE WILDERNESS -- DAY
43.

It is a few days later.

Tired and dressed for travelling, André, Margarete,
Edward, Caroline and an escort with pack animals have
stopped by a stream in rolling grassland.

The escorts have stacked their rifles in tepee fashion
and there is a small fire lit to brew tea.

Margarete sits on a pannier removed from one of the
horses while André looks over the small group huddled
in the wilderness.

ANDRÉ

That's the kind of power your
brothers have.

MARGARETE

Yes.

One of the escort points to an approaching horseman and there is an edging towards the stacked rifles. Caroline pulls Edward to her.

Margarete tries to maintain an air of calm. Then:

ANDRÉ

It's Duncan.

Duncan reins in his horse.

DUNCAN

I'm glad I caught up with you.

Without dismounting, he hands a letter to Margarete.

DUNCAN

Field Marshal Ferdinand sends his best wishes.

Looking sceptical, Margarete opens the letter and reads.

MARGARETE

(reading)

Send André to me. I need his advice in a business matter.

Shaking her head she looks at André.

MARGARETE

He doesn't want your advice, he wants you.

She resumes reading the letter.

MARGARETE

-- guarantee safe passage --
protection of Duncan MacKay...

She rises and hands the letter back to Duncan.

MARGARETE

Take it back to him.

DUNCAN

You won't accept the offer?

MARGARETE

No.

Duncan spins his horse making André step clear.

DUNCAN

What about you?

ANDRÉ

No, I won't.

Again Duncan spins his horse.

DUNCAN

I'll be back.

He spurs his horse and gallops away in a cloud of dust.

MARGARETE

This isn't the end of it.

ANDRÉ

I know. We...

MARGARETE

We have to save Edward, because like it or not, he's part of the Greenwood family and...

André is taken aback by her attitude.

ANDRÉ

(cutting in)

He's also our son.

MARGARETE

(sadly)

Of course. But you can't ignore our history and tradition.

She sits back down on the pannier and pulls André down beside her.

MARGARETE

You must promise that no matter what happens to me, you'll arrange for him to be educated and trained to take his place in Malfi.

ANDRÉ

Of course, but I won't let anything...

MARGARETE

(cutting in)

If you love me, take Edward to Mogandor.

ANDRÉ

No, we'll all go together.

She looks around at their camp.

MARGARETE

One horse is harder to follow than
all this.

André nods and Margarete rises and signals to one of
the escort who starts to prepare a horse.

André rises and takes Margarete in his arms.

ANDRÉ

I'm leaving behind the most precious
part of my life.

After a moment, Margarete frees herself, turns to
Edward and takes his hand.

MARGARETE

I don't know which is worse, to see
you dead or to part with you.

Shaken by her words, André distracts himself by
helping to load the horse, while Margarete kneels in
front of her son and embraces him.

MARGARETE

Goodbye Edward. You're lucky you
don't understand what misery lies
ahead.

Rising, she turns to André.

MARGARETE

I wish we didn't have to part like
this.

ANDRÉ

You must have courage!

As Margarete nods silently, he knows how meaningless
his words are.

Again he takes her in his arms and then looks at
Caroline.

ANDRÉ

Goodbye Caroline. If I don't see you
again, be there for...

He looks at Margarete unable to speak.

She pulls back slightly so she can look at André's face.

MARGARETE

That came from a dying husband.

They kiss for what they both believe will be the last time.

The attendant walks the horse closer to them and holds its head. André gently breaks away from Margarete, swings his son into the saddle and then mounts up behind him.

Unable to speak, he turns the horse and canters away leaving Margarete watching her life change forever.

44. EXT. -- ROAD NEAR MALFI -- LATE AFTERNOON
44.

Several vehicles including Ferdinand in his staff car sit at the side of road.

A soldier spots a cloud of dust approaching across the barren countryside.

SOLDIER

Horses!

An officer sitting beside Ferdinand stands and trains his binoculars on the dust cloud.

OFFICER

It's Duncan.

FERDINAND

Is he alone?

OFFICER

Yes.

FERDINAND

Damn them!

He climbs out of the car and walks towards Duncan, who reins in beside him.

FERDINAND

They rejected my offer?

DUNCAN

Yes.

FERDINAND

They understood it?

Duncan knows they understood it only too well.

DUNCAN

Yes, they did.

FERDINAND

Damn them! (pause) At first light, take some mounted troops and bring them in. I don't care what you have to do to them, just bring them in. Do you understand?

DUNCAN

Yes, I do.

He spurs his horse up towards Malfi and Ferdinand returns to his car.

45. EXT. -- CAMPSITE IN THE WILDERNESS -- MORNING
45.

The escorts are loading the packhorses, extinguishing campfires and generally striking their overnight camp when Caroline spots a rapidly approaching cloud of dust.

CAROLINE

Look ma'am!

Some of the escort move towards the stacked rifles, but shots ring out from the advancing mounted soldiers and they drop in their tracks.

Then they recognize Duncan at the head of the mounted troops.

CAROLINE

It's Duncan again!

MARGARETE

(to Caroline)

It's for the best.

Caroline looks at her, shocked.

CAROLINE

Ma'am?

MARGARETE

It'll be better to get it over with quickly.

Duncan waits until the last minute before reining in the troop.

MARGARETE

You've come for me.

Duncan looks over the group.

DUNCAN

Where's André?

MARGARETE

He's gone.

DUNCAN

Good. You must never see him again and then...

MARGARETE

(haughty)

Who are you to speak to me like this?

Duncan looks around at his troops and then back at Margarete.

MARGARETE

Very well. Get on with it.

Duncan, impressed by her coolness and determination, signals to some of his soldiers. They dismount and make the remaining escort begin reloading the packhorses.

46. EXT -- WILDERNESS TRAIL -- AFTERNOON
46.

A mounted column plods slowly across the open wilderness.

At the head of the column there are a couple of Duncan's troops and Duncan himself, followed by Margarete and Caroline, followed by her disarmed escort and flanked by more of Duncan's armed escort. They all look hot and weary.

The escort stiffens as Margarete urges her horse forward and then relaxes as she reins in alongside Duncan.

MARGARETE

You betrayed me.

Duncan looks at her silently.

MARGARETE

I thought you were a loyal soldier.

DUNCAN

I am.

MARGARETE

But not to me.

DUNCAN

I serve Field Marshal Ferdinand.

MARGARETE

Ah, yes. For the 'Provisor of the Horse'.

She has hit a nerve and Duncan looks uncomfortable.

DUNCAN

I can't expect you to understand.

They ride in silence, then:

DUNCAN

I've done things I don't like, but that's the price of success for someone like me.

MARGARETE

And is this success worth it?

Duncan shrugs but doesn't answer.

MARGARETE

Where are you taking me?

DUNCAN

To your palace in Malfi.

MARGARETE

So it will all end there.

DUNCAN

It'll go better for you if -- you give up André.

MARGARETE

Never!

Again they ride in silence until the column comes to a creek flanked with bushes and small trees. Margarete looks around at the column and then turns to Duncan.

MARGARETE

We could use a rest.

DUNCAN

I have my orders.

MARGARETE

A good commander looks after his troops.

He gives her a sidelong glance.

DUNCAN

I know.

He shifts in his saddle, looks over the column and reins in his horse. The column stops.

DUNCAN

A ten minute halt.

The troops dismount, lead the horses into the creek to drink, stretch and generally make use of the break.

Duncan swings out of his saddle, steps over to Margarete and holds his hand up to help her dismount.

MARGARETE

(with a small smile)

Fraternising with the enemy?

DUNCAN

I'm only acting on orders. It's nothing personal.

Margarete accepts his help and dismounts.

47. EXT. -- SMALL KNOLL NEAR MALFI -- NIGHT

47.

Surrounded by the sound of howling coyotes, Duncan, on foot, picks his way up the dark trail on Wolf's Knoll.

DUNCAN

Field Marshal? Sir?

FERDINAND

Duncan?

DUNCAN

Yes, sir.

FERDINAND

Over here.

There is a brief flash of light from a handheld lantern.

Duncan, thinking this is an odd place for a meeting, looks around as he makes his way to Ferdinand who is sitting on a rock.

DUNCAN

You wanted to see me?

FERDINAND

Yes.

FERDINAND

You have Margarete safely in her quarters?

DUNCAN

Yes.

FERDINAND

Good. How is she holding up?

DUNCAN

Very well, all things considered.

FERDINAND

Damn. Well, we'll soon see about that.

DUNCAN

Sir?

Ferdinand rises and moves off into the dark.

FERDINAND

Come here.

Duncan follows him. After a few paces Ferdinand stops and points to something on the ground and briefly shines his flashlight over the body of a man and a young boy.

Duncan is beginning to feel uneasy about the situation.

DUNCAN

Who are they?

FERDINAND

I don't know. Does it matter?

DUNCAN

Not really.

FERDINAND

Have them discreetly moved to my quarters.

Although Duncan is uncomfortable, he is a soldier and obeys orders.

DUNCAN

Sir.

Ferdinand turns and heads back to his rock. Duncan follows and waits for further orders but Ferdinand, staring into the darkness, seems to have forgotten that he is there.

DUNCAN

I'll be on my way.

There is no response from Ferdinand, so to the accompaniment of howling coyotes, Duncan heads back down the hill towards Malfi.

48. INT. -- ANTE ROOM TO MARGARETE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT
48.

The room is a quite large reception area but relatively sparsely furnished. Much of the room is dark with only the light from a couple of small lamps.

Duncan watches with disapproval as two soldiers finish doing something in the darkness on the far side of the room. When they leave, he pounds on the door to Margarete's inner apartment.

Caroline opens the door and then looks back into the room.

CAROLINE

It's Duncan.

Margarete appears behind her.

DUNCAN

Good evening, ma'am.

MARGARETE

Why are you here? No one else has come.

Duncan delivers what he feels to be an odd message.

DUNCAN

Field Marshal Ferdinand is coming to visit, but since he vowed never to see you again, he wants the lights extinguished.

MARGARETE

(nodding)

Turn the lights off.

Duncan extinguishes the lights and Ferdinand enters. The room is very dimly lit by one small window high on one wall.

FERDINAND

Where are you?

MARGARETE

Here.

FERDINAND

Where is the bastard?

MARGARETE

Whom?

FERDINAND

(disdainfully)

Your child.

MARGARETE

Is that why you're visiting me?

FERDINAND

I've come to make peace with you.

Here's a hand.

He holds out a dead man's hand wearing a ring, which because of the dark, she thinks is his hand.

Margarete lightly grasps the hand.

MARGARETE

You're very cold.

FERDINAND

(continuing)

I'll leave the ring with you, as a love token.

MARGARETE

(continuing)

Are you not feeling well?

FERDINAND

(continuing)

As well as the hand.

Then she realizes she is holding a severed hand.

MARGARETE

Ahhh!

She throws the hand onto a small table near her.

MARGARETE

Turn on the lights! Oh, it's hideous!

FERDINAND

Give her a light.

He leaves and Duncan lights a lamp. The room is mainly dark but Margarete can see the hand on the table.

MARGARETE

What's wrong with him? It's a dead man's hand!

Duncan lights another lamp, and on the far side of the room, what seems to be the dead bodies of André and Edward can be seen.

MARGARETE

(aghast)

André! Edward!

She almost collapses and Caroline steps forward to support her, which prevents her from going closer to the bodies.

Duncan now believes that Ferdinand has gone too far.

MARGARETE

After this, I have no reason to live.

DUNCAN

No, you must live.

MARGARETE

So that I can be tortured again and again?

DUNCAN

When things are at their worst, they can only get better.

MARGARETE
(despairing)

I've had enough.

Duncan considers his position and what he might lose,
and makes his decision.

DUNCAN
I'll try to help you.

MARGARETE
You've already "helped" me enough!
Tell my brothers I'm ready to die.

She turns and Caroline helps her into the inner room
and closes the door.

There is a pounding on the outer door.

FERDINAND
Duncan!

Duncan opens the door but Ferdinand hesitates outside
in the corridor.

FERDINAND
Where is she?

DUNCAN
Inside.

Ferdinand enters the ante room and crosses to the
bodies.

FERDINAND
So she believed them!

DUNCAN
Yes.

FERDINAND
Excellent!

DUNCAN
Why are you doing this? It's not
worthy of a soldier.

Ferdinand ignores him.

FERDINAND
Damn her!

Ferdinand strides around the room and then stops in
front of Duncan.

FERDINAND

André is hiding in Mogandor. I have one more little job for you and then we'll all go to Mogandor.

Duncan doesn't like the sound of this but says nothing.

Ferdinand gives him a hard look.

FERDINAND

You're acting under orders.

49. INT. -- MARGARETE'S APARTMENT -- DAY
49.

Margarete is sitting on one of the adobe benches, unmoving, staring into the middle distance.

Caroline stands looking out a window.

CAROLINE

What are you thinking about, ma'am?

Margarete rouses herself.

MARGARETE

I wish I could talk to the dead -- I'm sure they could teach us things we can never learn here.

CAROLINE

Oh...

The door suddenly opens and Duncan enters.

Margarete stands.

MARGARETE

You didn't knock.

He looks at Margarete for a long moment and she sits down.

MARGARETE

You look as if I were on my deathbed.

He looks at her steadily without answering.

MARGARETE

Why are you here?

Duncan understands his duty as a soldier, so suppressing his growing sympathy for Margarete, goes

to the door and opens it. Four GUARDS enter carrying a coffin and cords.

They put the coffin on the floor but remain holding the cords.

Margarete looks at the coffin, the four executioners and understanding her fate, steels herself.

MARGARETE

Let me see it.

As she rises and crosses to the coffin, Caroline rises, wanting to stop her but changes her mind and watches in dismay as Margarete puts her hand on her own coffin.

MARGARETE

So this is how I will leave this room.

Caroline gasps and Margarete turns to her.

MARGARETE

It's alright. It doesn't bother me.

Caroline can no longer contain herself and lunges at Duncan.

CAROLINE

Murderers!

Duncan wards off her blows until two of the guards manage to pull her away from him.

Still struggling, she cries out to Margarete.

CAROLINE

Shout for help!

MARGARETE

To whom?

Duncan turns to the guards.

DUNCAN

Remove her.

The two guards struggle to control Caroline and as they try to drag her to the door, she fights back with all her strength.

CAROLINE

(to the guards)

I will die with her.

The other two guards join in and the four carry the struggling Caroline through the door into the ante room.

MARGARETE

Goodbye, Caroline.

Margarete turns to Duncan.

MARGARETE

How am I to die?

DUNCAN

By strangling.

Two of the guards return to their places by the coffin leaving the other two in the ante room with Caroline.

DUNCAN

These are your executioners.

She looks at the men and then back to Duncan.

MARGARETE

I forgive them. They'll only do what illness or age would do.

DUNCAN

Aren't you afraid to die?

MARGARETE

Just get on with it!

Duncan nods to the guards and they move towards Margarete.

She looks steadily at Duncan.

MARGARETE

I have no reason to live.

She kneels and turns to her executioners.

MARGARETE

Now pull, and pull strongly.

They loop the cord around her neck, look at Duncan, and wait for his order.

Margarete looks at Duncan, willing him to give the order.

Grim-faced, Duncan nods to her, and then to the executioners who each take one end of the cord and then pull together.

50. INT. -- ANTE ROOM TO MARGARETE'S APARTMENT -- DAY
50.

The two guards restrain Caroline who struggles to return to Margarete.

CAROLINE
(screaming)

Why are you doing this? She's never done anything except serve Malfi! What...?

The guards remain implacable as she swings from strength to despair and near collapse.

51. INT. -- MARGARETE'S APARTMENT -- DAY
51.

Margarete stops struggling and her executioners straighten out her body.

DUNCAN
Where's her aide?

EXECUTIONER
Just outside.

DUNCAN
Go get her.

The executioners leave.

52. INT. -- ANTE ROOM TO MARGARETE'S APARTMENT -- DAY
52.

Caroline is in a state of semi-collapse when Margarete's executioners come out of her chamber.

MARGARETE'S EXECUTIONER
Take her inside.

One of Caroline's guards holds the door open while the other grabs her by the arm, raises her to her feet, and since she can hardly walk, half supports her as he propels her back into Margarete's room.

The first two executioners stand guard outside the door.

53. INT. -- MARGARETE'S APARTMENT -- DAY

53.

The guard thrusts Caroline into the room towards Duncan, who points at Margarete's body lying on the floor.

Caroline is almost overwhelmed by grief as she rushes over to the body and kneels beside it.

CAROLINE

You're damned for ever for this!

Suddenly she turns to face Duncan.

CAROLINE

I'm next, aren't I?

DUNCAN

Yes.

CAROLINE

I don't want to die. What have I done?

Duncan nods to the guards and turns back to Caroline.

CAROLINE

Let me speak to the Field Marshal.
I'm sure he doesn't want this.

DUNCAN

(to the guards)

Strangle her.

They grab hold of Caroline but she desperately fights back.

DUNCAN

How long do I have to wait?

They renew their efforts, overpower her and loop the cord around her neck.

54. INT. -- CORRIDOR NEAR MARGARETE'S QUARTERS -- DAY

54.

Ferdinand, ashen faced and agitated, lurks where he can see the entrance to Margarete's quarters.

55. INT. -- MARGARETE'S APARTMENT -- DAY

55.

Caroline's body lies on the floor and the executioners retrieve the cord form around her neck.

DUNCAN

Take her away.

He indicates Margarete's body.

DUNCAN

Leave this one.

They carry Caroline's body out of the room,

56. INT. -- CORRIDOR NEAR MARGARETE'S QUARTERS -- DAY
56.

As the executioners carry Caroline's body past Ferdinand, the horror of the situation calms his agitation.

57. INT. -- MARGARETE'S APARTMENT -- DAY
57.

Duncan, regretting what he has ordered, stands silently contemplating Margarete's body but his thoughts are interrupted by Ferdinand entering.

FERDINAND

Is she dead?

Duncan points to Margarete lying on the floor.

DUNCAN

As you ordered.

Ferdinand crosses to her and as he gazes down at her the enormity of what he has ordered really begins to sink in.

FERDINAND

Cover her face. I can't look at her.

Duncan picks up a throw and covers Margarete.

FERDINAND

She died too young.

DUNCAN

Yes.

FERDINAND

Let me see her face again.

Duncan pulls the throw off her face.

FERDINAND
Why didn't you show some mercy?

DUNCAN
(shocked)
Mercy!?

FERDINAND
You could have protected her from me!

Duncan looks at him in disbelief.

FERDINAND
I wasn't thinking clearly when I
asked you to kill --

He kneels beside Margarete's body and takes her in his arms.

FERDINAND
(continuing)
The one who meant the most to me.

As he lowers her body, his mood darkens and he rises to turn on Duncan.

FERDINAND
I hate you for what you've done!

DUNCAN
I was acting on your orders!

FERDINAND
You must accept the responsibility
for this.

DUNCAN
You must compensate me for my
services!

FERDINAND
(trailing off)
I'll tell you what I'll give you...

Duncan waits in silence.

FERDINAND
I'll give you a pardon for this
murder.

DUNCAN
(shocked)

What?

FERDINAND

It's the best I can do. On whose authority did you commit this -- unspeakable act?

DUNCAN

On yours.

FERDINAND

You will die for this! It can't be kept hidden!

DUNCAN

You'll be implicated too.

FERDINAND

Get out! Get right out of the country!

Duncan replaces the throw over Margarete's body.

FERDINAND

I never want to see you again!

DUNCAN

I was loyal to you above everyone else.

Ferdinand is no longer paying attention and his thoughts are beginning to ramble.

FERDINAND

I think I'll go to my friends on Wolf's Knoll.

He turns to Duncan.

FERDINAND

(continuing)

As soon as it gets dark.

Duncan watches as preoccupied, Ferdinand wanders out the door.

DUNCAN

He's mad.

Sadly looking down at Margarete's corpse, he remembers her question.

DUNCAN

It's not worth it.

58. EXT. -- ROAD NEAR RAMDALA -- DAY
58.

A large truck is parked across the road forming a road block.

On this side of it, a small convoy, including the Chaplain-General in his staff car, has pulled off the road. The escort has taken up defensive positions.

On the other side of the roadblock are several vehicles providing a certain amount of cover for a group of armed men.

An aide-de-camp, carrying a flag of truce, walks down the road from the roadblock to the Chaplain-General.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
(to the aide-de-camp)

Well?

AIDE-DE-CAMP

They will only negotiate with the Governor-General, sir.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

And what about our water supply?

AIDE-DE-CAMP

It'll be secure so long as they can negotiate with the Governor-General.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

Does anyone know where she is?

AIDE-DE-CAMP

I understand Field Marshal Ferdinand has had her found and returned to Malfi, sir.

The Chaplain-General eyes the roadblock.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

Then tell that -- rabble if they let us return to Ramdala, I will guarantee to have the Governor-General come here and negotiate in person.

AIDE-DE-CAMP

Yes sir.

The aide-de-camp heads back to the roadblock.

59. EXT. -- STREET MARKET IN MOGANDOR -- DAY
59.

The market consists of a square bounded by open-fronted shops, with stalls consisting of wagons and small trucks jumbled in the middle. There are crowds of people browsing and strolling through the square.

André, dressed like an ordinary workman, sits on the curb among other workers in front of the open-fronted shops. Although looking very casual, he is carefully watching the activities in the market.

He tenses when he spots a couple of soldiers strolling through the market, but they saunter out of the square and he relaxes again.

Then he spots Donald, also dressed as a workman, meandering through the market towards him. As Donald approaches, André rises, and they casually greet each other.

ANDRÉ
I'm glad you made it.

DONALD
(with relief)
Me too.

They amble around the perimeter of the square.

ANDRÉ
(quietly)
Is there any word on Margarete?

DONALD
Yes, she's back in Malfi.

ANDRÉ
Thank God. Is she OK?

DONALD
I think so, I haven't seen her but I understand she's back in the palace.

ANDRÉ
Good, that's good. (pause) Did you have any trouble getting here?

DONALD
No. The Chaplain-General has gone to Ramdala, there's more trouble there,

and Field Marshal Ferdinand seems to
be --

He taps his head.

DONALD
(continuing)

Unwell.

ANDRÉ

Really.

DONALD
Some say it's epilepsy, but I think
it's something more serious.

ANDRÉ

Do they still trust you?

DONALD

To a point. They know I worked for
you but they don't know we're
friends.

André leads the way into an open-fronted workmen's
bar.

60. EXT. -- ROAD NEAR RAMDALA -- DAY
60.

Again the aide-de-camp walks back from the roadblock
to the Chaplain-General while in the background the
insurgents are getting ready to move the roadblock.

As the aide-de-camp approaches, the Chaplain-General
signals to his escort to get ready to move.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
(to the aide-de-camp)

Well done. You must've been very
persuasive.

AIDE-DE-CAMP

I reminded them you are the Chaplain-
General and therefore a man of your
word.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

Yes. Well done.

The roadblock has now been removed and the Chaplain-
General and his escort proceeds along the road.
Although the escort is wary, the Chaplain-General is

supremely confident of his authority as they pass through the group of insurgents.

Once they are past them, the Chaplain-General turns to his aide-de-camp.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

When we get back, inform Field Marshal Ferdinand that I want him to come to Ramdala with the Governor-General.

AIDE-DE-CAMP

The Field Marshal, sir?

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

Yes, I'm going to need him.

The aide-de-camp now looks worried.

AIDE-DE-CAMP

Sir.

61. INT. -- BAR -- AFTERNOON

61.

The bar is roughly furnished with tables and benches and because it is afternoon, has only a few patrons.

A server plunks down two mugs of ale. Donald tosses some coins on the table and the server leaves.

ANDRÉ

Now that Margarete's back in Malfi, maybe I can work things out with the Chaplain-General.

DONALD

I doubt it.

ANDRÉ

Before I got here, he found us and sent me letters of safe conduct.

DONALD

I think they were probably just bait.

André nods and becomes lost in thought as they drink silently for a few minutes. Then having made a decision, he puts his mug down.

ANDRÉ

I don't have a choice. I've got to deal with the him.

DONALD

How?

ANDRÉ

You said he's in Ramdala.

Donald nods.

ANDRÉ

(continuing)

I still have friends there and maybe if I go there and confront him, I can negotiate a reconciliation.

DONALD

That's a huge risk.

ANDRÉ

I can't go on living like this.

DONALD

(trailing off)

If I can help...

ANDRÉ

There are a couple of things.

DONALD

Name them.

ANDRÉ

First I need a vehicle to get to Ramdala.

DONALD

I'll drive you.

ANDRÉ

No, it'd be safer to go alone. And the other thing is -- will you look after Edward?

DONALD

Yes, of course. Where is he?

André pulls a piece of paper from his pocket and slides it across to Donald.

ANDRÉ

You can trust the people looking after him.

André retrieves a document from another pocket and shows it to Donald.

ANDRÉ

And if you're willing, I'll sign this. If anything happens to me, it makes you Edward's legal guardian until he is returned to Margarete.

Donald feels honoured by this responsibility.

DONALD

Of course I'm willing.

As André signs the document, Donald fishes in his pocket and hands his vehicle's key to André.

DONALD

I'll show you where it's parked.

62. INT. -- PALACE CHURCH, RAMDALA -- EVENING
62.

The large, round, domed space is very similar to the church in Malfi.

As the Chaplain-General stands in front of the cross with his arms raised in supplication, Duncan enters from one of the arched doorways in the circular wall and moves around into the Chaplain-General's eye line. The Chaplain-General lowers his arms and Duncan approaches him.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

Where's the Governor-General?

Duncan looks at him without answering.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

Didn't you bring the Governor-General?

DUNCAN

No sir.

The Chaplain-General starts to get angry.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

Why not?

DUNCAN

She's dead, sir.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

(shocked)

Dead!

DUNCAN
Yes, sir. On Field Marshal
Ferdinand's orders.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
(shaken)
Oh my God! Where is he now?

DUNCAN
He's on his way.

The two men stand eying each other.

63. EXT. -- THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL'S RAMDALA PALACE --
EVENING 63.

A local delivery truck stops at a guarded gate to the grounds of the Chaplain-General's palace. André is hidden under a tarp in the back.

The guard recognizes the driver, waves him through and the truck drives around to a deserted area behind the palace.

64. EXT. -- DESERTED AREA -- EVENING
64.

The driver stops amongst the ruins of an old, crumbling building. He looks around to see that they are alone, then climbs out of the cab, walks around to the back and flips the tarp off André.

DRIVER
We're here.

André jumps down from the back of the truck. When he attempts to slip the driver some money, he pushes it away and points to a palace window.

DRIVER
That's his quarters. Good luck.

He quickly returns to the cab of the truck, turns it, and drives away leaving André to make his way among the ruined arches, and fallen stone towards the palace.

65. INT. -- PALACE CHURCH, RAMDALA -- EVENING
65.

The Chaplain-General and Duncan are still standing in front of the cross but the Chaplain-General is showing signs of impatience.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

This is taking too long. Go and...

He is interrupted by a commotion outside the church. A door is flung open and Ferdinand, flanked by two officials whom he tries to push away, enters and staggers towards the Chaplain-General.

FERDINAND

(to the officials)

Go away!

Then he looks around wildly.

FERDINAND

(terrified)

What's that following me?

The others look around but can see nothing.

FIRST OFFICIAL

There's nothing sir.

FERDINAND

Yes, there is.

Ferdinand points at the ground.

FIRST OFFICIAL

That's your shadow.

FERDINAND

I'll strangle it.

He throws himself on the ground, and the Chaplain-General, Duncan and the two officials watch in disbelief as he tries to wrestle with his shadow.

Then he stops fighting and sits quietly, thinking.

FERDINAND

What's done is done. I won't confess to anything.

The Chaplain-General recovers quickly.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

(sharply)

Get him up.

The officials help Ferdinand to his feet but he struggles to get away from them and turns to the Chaplain-General and Duncan.

FERDINAND

Help me!

He tries to flee but the officials struggle to hold him.

FERDINAND

(trailing off)

I'll crush you to a pulp. I'll flay the skin off you and, and...

He starts to weaken.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

(to the officials)

Sit him over there.

They help him to a bench and he half collapses onto it.

One of the officials turns to the Chaplain-General.

SECOND OFFICIAL

(quietly; concerned)

Do you know what's wrong with him?

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

(quietly)

No. But his doctors are afraid he might not live much longer.

Duncan doesn't believe the Chaplain-General but remains impassive.

The Chaplain-General addresses the officials.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

I don't think there's anything more you can do.

The officials start to leave.

SECOND OFFICIAL

Please give the Field Marshal our best wishes for a complete recovery.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

Thank you.

As the officials leave, the Chaplain-General eyes Duncan until they are out of earshot.

Duncan is shaken by the look of death in the Chaplain-General's eyes.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
What's wrong?

He hesitates but recovers quickly and nods in the direction of Ferdinand.

DUNCAN
How can I serve him when he's like that?

The Chaplain-General looks at him for a moment.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
You're an ambitious man.

Duncan doesn't dispute this.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
Help me and I'll see that you're looked after -- even if my brother is dead.

Duncan considers this.

DUNCAN
All right.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
André is hiding in Mogandor. Find him and kill him.

Duncan thinks about this for a moment.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
Do it and you can name the position you want.

Duncan makes his decision.

DUNCAN
There's nothing I'd like more than to find André.

The Chaplain-General wonders if he can trust Duncan.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
I'll assign a dozen men to help you.

DUNCAN
I don't want them.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
(suspicious)

Why not?

DUNCAN

The fewer who know what's happening
the less chance of being caught.

The Chaplain-General can't argue with that logic.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
On your way then.

The Chaplain-General turns back to the cross and
raises his arms.

Duncan realizes the interview is over and heads for an
exit behind the Chaplain-General.

Just before Duncan leaves, he stops in the shadows and
turns back in time to see the Chaplain-General lower
his arms and check his watch.

Because of the acoustics in the round structure,
Duncan can hear his quiet murmur quite clearly.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
One more job and he's dead.

After a moment's thought, the Chaplain-General raises
his arms again.

Looking concerned, Duncan waits, listening intently.

66. EXT. -- THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL'S RAMDALA PALACE --
NIGHT 66.

André scrambles over a parapet onto a second floor
balcony, crosses to a door and quietly pounds on it.
A muffled voice answers.

ANDRÉ
(hoarse whisper)
It's me, André Chapelon.

After a moment the door opens and André enters.

67. INT. -- CORRIDOR IN CHAPLAIN-GENERAL'S PALACE --
NIGHT 67.

As a servant locks the door, André hands him a small
pouch containing gold coins which the servant tucks
into an inside pocket.

ANDRÉ

Take me to the church where the
Chaplain-General goes to pray.

SERVANT

It's on the other side of the palace.

ANDRÉ

Lead on.

The servant leads him along the corridor and as they round a corner, a guard steps out of the shadows and reaches for his pistol.

GUARD

Who's there?

The servant stops, terrified, but André quickly steps forward and before the guard can fire, expertly stabs him with a fighting knife.

André steps over the body and looks at the shocked servant.

ANDRÉ

Keep going.

SERVANT

Yes sir.

The servant nervously takes the lead and they continue along the corridor.

68. INT. -- PALACE CHURCH, RAMDALA -- NIGHT
68.

Duncan is still in the shadows watching the Chaplain-General in front of the cross when Ferdinand, slumped on the bench, stirs and pulling himself together rises and joins his brother at the cross.

The Chaplain-General lowers his arms and looks at him pointedly.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

How is Margarete?

Ferdinand ignores his brother and speaks to the cross.

FERDINAND

Strangling is a very quiet death.

The Chaplain-General looks around to see that they are alone, but doesn't notice Duncan in the shadows.

FERDINAND
 (continuing; demented)
 What do you say to that? Whisper to
 me. Do you agree?

Ferdinand cups his hand behind his ear and listens.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
 I asked you how our sister is.

Ferdinand pulls himself together.

FERDINAND
 Your orders have been...

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
 (cutting in; surprised)
 My orders?

FERDINAND
 (trailing off)
 You clearly instructed me to deal
 with...

He becomes agitated in grief.

FERDINAND
 (trailing off)
 And I had Duncan destroy the most
 important thing in my life. The only
 one I ever...

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
 Duncan.

Ferdinand turns on the Chaplain-General.

FERDINAND
 You should be praying. Pray! Pray!

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
 I no longer believe in prayer.

Rambling again, Ferdinand ignores his brother.

FERDINAND
 So, it must be done in the dark.
 (nodding) The Chaplain-General wants
 it kept secret at all costs.

The Chaplain-General takes Ferdinand by the arm.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
I'll take you to your quarters.

He leads Ferdinand out of the church without seeing Duncan.

69. EXT. -- PALACE COURTYARD, RAMDALA -- NIGHT
69.

The courtyard is similar to that in Malfi but with an upper gallery.

Duncan, looking worried, emerges onto the upper gallery, hurries along it and down a staircase to the empty courtyard.

DUNCAN
I'm next.

70. EXT. -- COURTYARD, GROUND LEVEL -- NIGHT
70.

André and the servant enter the dimly lit cloister area.

SERVANT
Wait here sir. I'll get you a flashlight.

The servant leaves.

Duncan slips along the cloister, and suddenly sees a lurking, unidentified, shape. In self defence, he pulls his fighting knife and stabs André without recognizing him.

He gets ready to stab again but André sags to the floor.

ANDRÉ
Enough!

DUNCAN
Who are you?

André can only groan.

The servant returns with a light.

SERVANT
Where are you, sir?

The servant switches on the light and illuminates the situation.

ANDRÉ
(gasping)

Duncan!

DUNCAN

Shit!

SERVANT

O my God! Oh...

DUNCAN
(to servant)

Shut up or you're dead!

The servant closes his mouth and Duncan kneels beside the dying André.

DUNCAN
(bitterly)

We're all pawns in their damned game!
I was hoping to save you from them.

André manages a nod.

ANDRÉ
(gasping)

Tell my wife that I love her.

Duncan looks at him without speaking.

ANDRÉ

Do that for me.

DUNCAN

The Chaplain-General had her
murdered.

André groans and Duncan thinks he has died but rallying slightly, he struggles to speak again.

ANDRÉ

Tell Donald to keep my son away from
those damned people!

DUNCAN
(genuinely)

I'll do my best.

André tries to speak again, but with a gasp, dies and Duncan turns to the horrified servant.

DUNCAN
What was he doing here?

SERVANT
He came to see the Chaplain-General.

Duncan gives the servant a hard look.

DUNCAN
Pick up his body and come with me.

The servant picks up André's body. Duncan points and the servant carries André along the cloister followed by Duncan.

71. INT. -- CHAPLAIN-GENERAL'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT
71.

The room is large and comfortably furnished, similar to the Chaplain-General's quarters in Malfi.

As the Chaplain-General stands leafing through a book the door suddenly bursts open and Duncan enters followed by the servant who puts André's body on the floor.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
What are you doing here?

Duncan, pulling his fighting knife, addresses the servant.

DUNCAN
Lock the door.

The servant, looking worried and fearful, obeys as Duncan turns to the Chaplain-General.

DUNCAN
(to the Chaplain-General)
I am going to kill you.

The Chaplain-General backs away from him.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
(shouting)
Guards! Guards!!

DUNCAN
They can't hear you.

Duncan advances.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

Wait!

He backs towards his desk

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

I'll share my fortune with you.

DUNCAN

It's too late.

The Chaplain-General reaches his desk, ducks behind it hitting a button, and alarm bells begin to ring.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

(shouting)

Call out the guard!

The servant rushes towards the door, but Duncan intercepts him, fatally stabs him and then turns back to the Chaplain-General.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

Why do you want to kill me?

Duncan rolls André's body over.

DUNCAN

Look.

The Chaplain-General recognizes André and for a moment is relieved thinking things will be all right.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

(approving)

You did it! That was quick, well...

DUNCAN

(cutting in)

By mistake.

He points his knife at the Chaplain-General.

DUNCAN

But you deliberately had your sister killed.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL

(desperate)

No, I didn't! Ferdinand...

Duncan lunges at the Chaplain-General.

He dodges but Duncan manages to wound him. The Chaplain-General gasps and tries to run from Duncan.

There is the sound of a nearby shot.

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
There's the guard!

The Chaplain-General scrambles to keep away from Duncan.

A door bursts open and Ferdinand madly charges in waving his revolver.

FERDINAND
I was locked in my quarters! Get me a fresh horse and rally the advance guard or the day is lost!

He approaches the Chaplain-General.

FERDINAND
I give you the honour of surrendering like a soldier.

The Chaplain-General ducks behind Duncan.

Ferdinand fires a shot but it goes wide.

FERDINAND
Yield!

THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL
I'm your brother!

FERDINAND
My brother wouldn't fight on the wrong side!

Ferdinand fires another shot which in the mêlée hits Duncan who sinks to his knees.

Ferdinand gets a clear shot, fires at his brother, and kills him.

FERDINAND
Aha!

Then he walks around waving his revolver for emphasis.

FERDINAND
The pain is nothing.

He stops close to Duncan to address him

FERDINAND

There's philosophy for you.

With a huge struggle, Duncan manages to plunge his knife into Ferdinand.

DUNCAN

There's revenge for you.

He watches Ferdinand sink to his knees clutching at the hilt of the knife.

FERDINAND

Margarete!

With grim satisfaction, Duncan watches Ferdinand collapse into a heap and die.

He tries to crawl towards the door but hasn't the strength and collapses and dies.

DISSOLVE TO:

72. EXT. -- ROAD NEAR MALFI -- EVENING
72.

As the cars carrying Edward and Donald pass the base of Wolf's Knoll and Malfi comes into view, Edward taps the driver on the shoulder.

EDWARD

Stop, please.

As he turns to Donald, the driver looks, in his mirror, at Donald for permission.

EDWARD

(continuing)

Just for a moment.

Donald nods to the driver who stops the car and radios to the car in front which also stops.

Donald, remembering Ferdinand's predilection for Wolf's Knoll, looks thoughtfully at Edward.

DONALD

Do you want to get out?

EDWARD

No, I just want to look at Malfi. I don't really remember it.

Donald, looking relieved, sits quietly as Edward absorbs what will become his life's work.

After a few moments he turns to Donald.

EDWARD

Thank you.

Donald nods to the driver watching in his mirror, and the convoy continues on.

71. EXT -- ENTRANCE TO MALFI -- EVENING

71.

The heavy timber gates are open. As Duncan's cars approach, a couple of sentries step out of their shelter. They salute and watch with curiosity as Edward passes into Malfi.

Once the cars are past, one guard turns to the other.

GUARD

From what I've heard of his family, I hope he's more like his mother than the rest of that bunch.

The second guard nods thoughtfully.

END