



MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL

Sir Lancelot

Puzzle by Cathy Saxton (Seattle)

The following takes place on Prince Herbert's wedding day before Sir Lancelot comes to rescue him. Solve the puzzle to figure out what Herbert might desire.

There are five bit parts present in this scene:

MOTHER, a kindly woman.

FATHER, the king of this swampy land.

GUARD #1, a short, stocky fellow with a spear.

GUARD #2, a tall, lanky fellow currently plagued by hiccoughs.

HERBERT, a prince about to be wed (against his will).

Prince HERBERT sits alone in his room, morosely contemplating his fate.

□ □ □ □ □

MOTHER enters with GUARD #2, who is carrying a tray with milk and cookies. GUARD #2 hiccoughs, which shakes the tray, spilling the milk and sending a cookie skittering off the plate and onto the floor. MOTHER tries to cheer up HERBERT, offering him the remaining cookies, but HERBERT declines.

□ □ □ □ □

MOTHER leaves. HERBERT begins plotting a way to distract GUARD #2 and make his escape, but FATHER enters with GUARD #1.

FATHER: Guards! Make sure the prince doesn't leave this room until I come and get him.

GUARD #1: Not to leave the room even if you come and get him.

GUARD #2: Hic!

FATHER: No, no. Until I come and get him.

GUARD #1: Until you come and get him, we're not to enter the room.

FATHER: No, no, no. You stay in the room and make sure he doesn't leave.

GUARD #1: And you'll come and get him.

GUARD #2: Hic!

FATHER: Right.

GUARD #1: We don't need to do anything, apart from just stop him entering the room.

FATHER: No, no. Leaving the room.

GUARD #1: Leaving the room, yes.

FATHER: All right?

GUARD #1: Right.

FATHER makes an attempt to get HERBERT excited about the marriage and his eventual inheritance, telling stories about building castles in a swamp.

□ □ □ □ □

As FATHER drones on about his castle-building, HERBERT leaves the room.

□ □ □ □ □

FATHER interrupts his monologue with a start, berating the GUARDS for being inattentive and letting HERBERT escape. They bring HERBERT back.

FATHER (to GUARDS): Look, it's quite simple. You just stay here, and make sure he doesn't leave the room. All right?

GUARD #2: Hic!

GUARD #1: Uh, can he leave the room with us?

FATHER: N- No, no, no. You just keep him in here, and make sure —

GUARD #1: Oh, yes, we'll keep him in here, obviously. But if he had to leave and we were with him —

FATHER: No, no, just keep him in here —

GUARD #1: Until you, or anyone else, —

FATHER: No, not anyone else, just me —

GUARD #1: Just you.

GUARD #2: Hic!

FATHER: Right?

GUARD #1: Right, we'll stay here until you get back.

FATHER: And, uh, make sure he doesn't leave.

GUARD #1: What?

FATHER: Make sure he doesn't leave.

GUARD #1: The prince?

FATHER: Yes, make sure he doesn't leave.

GUARD #1: Oh, yes, of course.

FATHER: Is that clear?

GUARD #2: Hic!

GUARD #1: Oh, quite clear, no problems.

FATHER turns to exit the room. The GUARDS fall in line behind him.

FATHER: Where are you going?

GUARD #1: We're coming with you.

GUARD #2: Hic!

FATHER: No, no, I want you to stay here and make sure he doesn't leave.

GUARD #1: Oh, I see. Right.

GUARD #2: Hic!

FATHER leaves to finish wedding preparations. Amazingly, the GUARDS remain in the room with HERBERT.

□ □ □ □ □