

ONE DAY AT KINGSBRIDGE

by Ken Follett

Ten vs. Waterman

Phil, Tommy, Tomer
allies
But should be pushed,
lead by Jew who
organizes his rescue
by prayer and
strategy

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Use his wife to do — she volunteers,
something very dangerous — inserts, disobeys
— maybe try to — has orders
seduce Waterman in front — maybe involved
of hidden witnesses their son too

Needs a good reason why he wants the
money. Fully aware of the danger, but has
secret faith in God. Maybe he needs it to
complete his half-finished synagogue and
or he has just a business headache and
needs it to pay someone, or he'll
lose everything
— Better yet he needs it as a
bribe to stand off some impending
person cutout.

The story takes place on Easter Sunday in the year 1162.

An unlikely name for a Jew then

Part One: Morning

1. Michael of Kingsbridge, 27, is the son of the late Malachi the Jew. He has inherited and expanded his father's business. Old Malachi was an anxious man, painfully aware of the tightrope he walked as a professing Jew in an aggressively Christian society. However, young Michael is a more self-assured type. He is also bright, charming and hardworking.

We see him through the eyes of his young wife, Judith, the daughter of a Shiring silversmith. She is an attractive and capable woman who adores her husband. Early on Sunday morning she is preparing to set up his stall in the Kingsbridge churchyard, ready for the market. Michael himself is away in Winchester.

However, he returns home earlier than expected, to a joyous welcome from Judith and their seven-year-old son David, who thinks his father is the greatest man on earth. Michael is early because, with characteristic recklessness, he has travelled all night. This exploit thrills David and alarms Judith.

Michael explains why he has hurried home. Eight years ago (in 1154) ^{his father? No.} he was coerced into lending William Hamleigh £100 to buy the post of sheriff of Shiring. It almost ruined Michael. After much hard work the business recovered and is now more prosperous than ever, but the injustice still rankles. Worse still, William has never paid a penny of interest, nor has he

His travelling all night
should relate to some
writtle in his plan to make W. pay.
Or he has had to spend all his money
for a major bribe and rushed back not
to miss the big money-making matter 3

repaid the principal which was due a year ago. Michael cannot
Perhaps he was on a mission for Philip.
get justice in the county court, where the sheriff presides; but
Negotiating a loan for building supplies * Then Philip owes him a favour.
the king's itinerant justices are due in Kingsbridge in Easter
week, and Michael has issued a writ against William. ^{himself?} no lawyer?

This makes Judith nervous. Might it not be better to write
off the debt than have a lawsuit with a powerful man? But
Michael and his father worked hard and took risks for this money,
and Michael cannot stand still to be robbed.

Maybe she should be furiously opposed

2. Brother Jonathan, the priory orphan, is now 26. He is still
working as Philip's personal assistant, but lately the job
chafes. He is ready to have his own area of responsibility. He
would like the job of cellarer - effectively No. 3 in the
hierarchy - but some of the monks think he is too young.

This Easter the priory has numerous visitors. ^{may not need this - but good background} While
arranging their accommodation, Jonathan is thinking how much
^{for his character}
better these matters might be arranged. If he were cellarer he
would build a new guest house, etc.

Among today's visitors is the priory's perennial enemy, Bishop Waleran, who will take the Easter service. Waleran has put himself forward for the vacant post of archbishop of Canterbury. He is now one of the senior bishops in the kingdom, but he has never quite achieved national distinction - partly because of his continuing feud with Philip - and his chances of getting the top job in the English church are slender, unless something should happen within the next few weeks to bring him special prominence. Which God forbid, thinks Jonathan.

How soon is the election?
Are there visiting clerics he might impress?
Who is the chief contender against whom he's running?
Does he have even a nucleus of votes on his side?
Probably needs another bishop as confidant to
looking all this over

Could Michael and Jonathan
have been childhood playmates?

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Another special guest is the abbess of Longham, Mother Floria, who is on her way home from a trip to Normandy. Like Philip, Floria has the reputation of a stern disciplinarian. Also like Philip, she has a warm heart. Jonathan sees Philip proudly showing Floria the priory's bookmaking workshop. To Jonathan's great amusement, the two of them are getting on like a house on fire.

How many? How long do they stay? Who enforces their decisions? How many cases are they scheduled to hear?

The royal justices must also be accommodated at the priory.

However, they are not expected until tomorrow, Monday.

Richard's no action here - Maybe the scene is in the event William might try something violent or unhelpful

3. Jack and Aliena have built their new castle at Millmead, a village an hour's walk from Kingsbridge. Jack is at the peak of his career, completely absorbed in the building of his masterpiece, the nave of Kingsbridge cathedral. Aliena continues to act as caretaker of the earldom while her brother is in Palestine.

We see them through the eyes of Tommy, their son, who is now 19. He is in the middle of a serious dispute with his father. He is working as an apprentice stonemason, but he is not very good at it. He really wants to be a knight, and to that end he wants to be made a squire. Jack refuses point blank, convinced that Tommy is foolishly seduced by the apparent glamour of knighthood.

Unlike Tommy, Jack's daughter Sally, 17, is fascinated by building; but Jack is blind to this.

Aliena also has Easter guests: the earl of Bedford and his family. Tommy is especially interested in his pretty younger daughter Catherine

thrust at scene unclear
Better if we meet these people too
with either Richard or Wolsey
or maybe both. Perhaps both Jew and Bishop
could have pressing business at castle

As they all assemble to ride to Kingsbridge for the Easter service, a village girl called Tilly rushes in in tears, saying: "Something terrible has happened!" *God if Michael (and maybe his family) were present at this discovery. And perhaps W. too*

4. Sheriff William is embarrassed by Michael's writ. He has never made as much money as he hoped out of the shrievalty, partly because Philip and Aliena offer more reliable justice in their borough and manor courts. Anyway, he does not have £240 or even £100. But Henry II is tough on delinquent sheriffs and the royal justices are liable to order William to pay up. *What happens, what would he lose?*

He goes to Michael's house and tries to persuade him to withdraw the writ, first promising to pay the money back and then, when that fails, resorting to threats. Michael and Judith are scared but they stand firm.

The confrontation is interrupted by a message from the Lady Aliena. The sheriff is required at Millmead. There has been a murder. *Making William as they do? why not have the murder in the town?*

5. The victim is April, a young nun in the entourage of Mother Floria. She has been strangled. *We shall meet her earlier when she's alive. See how Floria dotes on her*

Catherine Bedford tells Tommy that she knows April. Together, Tommy and Catherine discover that April sneaked away from Kingsbridge last night for an assignation with her former lover, Edwin, a squire with Aliena's knights. Edwin tearfully admits this, but says she was all right when he left her.

The villagers speak of a stranger on a piebald pony. Tommy speculates that the stranger spied on the lovers, became inflamed watching them, waited for Edwin to leave then assaulted April.

Make him the P.O.V. investigator

Would a boy deduce this?

Aliena, who is obliged to conduct a preliminary inquiry, is impressed by her son's investigative work.

6. Sheriff William examines the corpse with characteristic insensitivity and confirms that the victim had sexual intercourse before she died.

Aliena tells him about the stranger, but William arrests Edwin.

The real action here should be the scene between the two of them. Aliena and William. Maybe William has come uninvited. Maybe he tries to borrow from her, or sell her something.

7. Jews from neighbouring towns arrive at Michael's house in Kingsbridge. They are the witnesses to the original loan and they have come, bravely, to testify at the court. There is a party atmosphere as old friends meet and Judith serves food and drink. However, Judith is anxious. Easter is a time of high emotions, and Jews do well to keep their heads down.

Maybe out set
would there be only one family in Kingsbridge? From the one such witness friend would be present from the William showing the witness around.

8. The Millmead party arrives at Kingsbridge.

William puts the corpse in the priory mortuary.

Prior Philip consoles a distraught Mother Floria and finds himself experiencing very odd feelings.

Sally walks around the cathedral, fascinated by every detail of the building operation - especially the stained glass.

Tommy sees a piebald pony in the priory stables. On investigation it turns out to belong to Dean Baldwin, one of Waleran's priests.

bring him on stage earlier

What year were Jews expelled from England?

w must continue to
corpse first and with ^{set} ^{to} ^{these}
parties present. ^{only} ^{friendly}
Need a direction to keep all the
others away.

7

Part Two: Noon

9. Bishop Waleran views the corpse. Shocking even William, he mutilates the body with a nail, counterfeiting the wounds of crucifixion. "The Jews did this," he says. (A common medieval scare story told of Jews crucifying children at Easter.)

This needs preparing - too sudden.

William assumes Waleran is doing this to protect Dean Baldwin. However, it fits in remarkably well with William's own needs. If he can pin the murder on Michael he will solve his debt problem.

He checks, and establishes to his great delight that Michael was out all last night.

Split P.O.V. - first Waleran, then William

10. At the service, Waleran preaches a rabble-rousing sermon, making April a martyr and accusing the Jews of killing her.

Philip realises what is about to happen and sends Jonathan to warn Michael.

At the climax of the sermon, William brings the corpse into the church.

Philip intervenes in the service. Now something happens which devastates him. Despite the exercise of all his moral authority the crowd defies him. He realises that there are hundreds of people here whom he hardly knows; people who have moved to Kingsbridge in the last few years and do not regard him with the kind of awe the older residents have. Now all he achieves is the total loss of his credibility with the

townspeople. An hysterical mob pours out of the church, looking for Jews. *William and Waleran should to some extent have organised this in advance. Maybe even paid and rehearsed some popular ruffians to spark the crowd and lead them.*

11. Some of Michael's visitors get away but others are trapped. They barricade themselves into a house. The mob starts a fire to smoke them out.

Using Jonathan as an intermediary, Michael offers to give himself up if everyone else is let go. This is agreed.

Michael is imprisoned by William. The townspeople begin to build a gallows.

12. Philip, Floria, Jack, Aliena, Tommy, Catherine and Judith hold a crisis meeting at the priory while the townspeople drink beer and get uglier. Although Philip is still in charge, he is obliged to have others do the legwork, because he has been humiliated and has momentarily lost his authority.

Could Michael be present and run the meeting? Judith (?)

Jonathan goes to see Edwin in the hope that he will admit to having had sex with April (thereby proving that she is not a saint). But Edwin has fled from Kingsbridge.

Tommy accuses Baldwin of the crime, based on the evidence *evidence supplied by Paris or Judith or one of the Jews* of the piebald pony. But Baldwin has a genuine alibi.

Philip and Floria wonder why Waleran is doing this, if not to protect Baldwin? They realise that the association with a martyred saint might be just the thing Waleran needs to help him win the archbishopric.

The crisis brings Philip and Floria close together, and they feel intensely drawn to one another.

This should happen sooner, when Waleran first makes his accusations

Tommy and Catherine have fallen in love. Catherine proposes that Tommy should join her father's household as a squire. There is nothing Tommy would like better - but he knows Jack will not permit it.

Need two or so previous romantic scenes to lead up to this. Need to link Tommy somehow to someone in the Tennyson family.

13. Judith, working alone, goes to Millmead and finds Tilly, who must know that there were no crucifixion wounds on the corpse when it was found. But Tilly refuses to testify.

Edwin is with Tilly, and Judith divines that they are lovers and that Tilly is pregnant. Putting several clues together, Judith accuses Tilly of murdering April out of jealousy.

Tilly and Edwin flee, never to be seen again.

Good but she gets to this solution too quickly. The clues should be threaded through at least some more scenes. Judith might be with Tommy on Donham - and scene could have some violent action.

Part Three: Night

15. Tommy makes an attempt to rescue Michael by force. He has a dual motive. He is outraged by the injustice of what Waleran is doing; and he also wants to impress his father with his military skills, in the hope that Jack will then let him become a squire. However, despite careful planning, the attempt fails through bad luck, and Tommy thinks he has lost his chance.

Good if Tommy also likes M, maybe feels he has a debt of honor to repay for some favor.

16. Philip reassesses his position and counts all the ways he might bring pressure to bear on leading Kingsbridge citizens. For many merchants and craftsmen he is the major or only customer. He is landlord to most of them. Almost everyone is in need of his goodwill for some reason or another.

During the night he and Jonathan call on various leading citizens. They use reason, moral pressure, and if necessary threats, to persuade them to calm down, avoid a lynching and let the royal justices try the case. Philip even persuades Sheriff William to drop it on condition Michael forgives the loan. But nothing will change Waleran's mind.

Does he have his own men-at-arms who would do this?

17. At dawn Michael is brought out to be hanged. The townspeople are mostly absent. Sheriff William looks on, unwilling to stop it. Waleran's men bring Michael to the scaffold and put the noose around his neck. Then Jonathan appears with the Weeping Madonna. This is the last straw: Waleran's people cannot bring themselves to do the deed. Michael is rescued.

In the elation, Philip kisses Mother Floria.

Would be more satisfying if Michael somehow either alone or with someone in his own family rescued him. Maybe it fails and then J. steps in.

18. Jack tells Tommy that he is impressed - not with the failed attempt to rescue Michael, but by Tommy's fierce defence of

If you use Weeping Madonna, it needs planting earlier.

justice. Jack has at last realised that Tommy is cut out for the life of a knight. He gives permission for Tommy to join the Earl of Bedford's household as a squire (to Catherine's inexpressible delight).

Jack consoles himself by fostering Sally's interest in stained glass.

Jonathan becomes cellarer.

Philip thinks hard about Floria, and realises that the strong feelings he has toward her are probably what ordinary people call love. He says goodbye to her regretfully, and prepares to confess his sin. All the same, in his heart of

hearts he cannot bring himself to regret the intense pleasure of his 24-hour love affair.

Need a major confrontation between Michael and Waterman

And ending should include a rejoicing of the Jews with an aged Jewist, maybe Waterman now has to come up with the money.

And Thomas a kinsman, later to be called Thomas Becket, becomes Archb. of C.

Waterman needs to organize the
murder. Maybe they confessed. Reveals her
hate and jealousy of the idea, goal her
Then he the man and blame it
into the Jew.

Need a prison scene to set up his
desperation to make a speech to get
himself elected. He could have this with
Baldwin and/or William and/or some high ranking
sympathetic cleric. They might come up with
a number of themes - of which Jew-baiting
would be only one.
William might inquire if there were some
point of law that would free him from
having to pay or could Waterman do
something mystical to stop the Jew?
William would agree with his problem
after we've seen Waterman struggling to
come up with a plan. I would call

Need to be clear why for
Waterman this is now or never.
Also why specifically he courts this so.
What will he have that he does not have
now?