

"The Princess Bride"

by

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1987-Shooting Draft

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**FADE IN ON:**

**A VIDEO GAME ON A COMPUTER SCREEN**

The game is in progress. As a sick coughing sound is heard.

**CUT TO:**

**THIS KID**

lying in bed, coughing. Pale, one sick cookie. Maybe he's seven or eight or nine. He holds a remote in one hand, presses it, and the video game moves a little bit. Then he's hit by another spasm of coughing, puts the remote down.

His room is monochromatic, greys and blues, mildly high-tech. We're in the present day and this is a middle class house, somewhere in the suburbs.

**CUT TO:**

The Kid's MOTHER as she enters, goes to him, fluffs his pillows, kisses him, and briefly feels his forehead. She's worried, it doesn't show. During this

**MOTHER**

You feeling any better?

**THE KID**

A little bit.

**MOTHER**

Guess what.

**THE KID**

What?

**MOTHER**

Your grandfather's here.

**THE KID**

(not overjoyed)

Mom, can't you tell him that I'm sick?

**MOTHER**

You are sick, that's why he's here.

**THE KID**

He'll pinch my cheek. I hate that.

**MOTHER**

Maybe he won't.

---

2.

The Kid shoots her an "I'm sure" look, as we

**CUT TO:**

THE KID'S GRANDFATHER bursting into the room. Kind of ruffled. But the eyes are bright. He has a wrapped package tucked under one arm as he immediately goes to The Kid, pinches his cheek.

**GRANDFATHER**

Hey! How's the sickie? Heh?

The Kid gives his Mother an "I told you so" look. The Mother ignores it, beats a retreat.

**MOTHER**

I think I'll leave you two pals.

And she is gone. There's an uncomfortable silence, then...

**GRANDFATHER**

I brought you a special present.

**THE KID**

What is it?

**GRANDFATHER**

Open it up.

The Kid does. He does his best to smile.

**THE KID**

A book?

**GRANDFATHER**

That's right. When I was your age, television was called books. And this is a special book. It was the book my father used to read to me when I was sick, and I used to read it to your father. And today, I'm gonna read it to you.

**THE KID**

Has it got any sports in it?

**CUT TO:**

**THE GRANDFATHER**

Suddenly passionate.

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3.

**GRANDFATHER**

Are you kidding? Fencing. Fighting.  
Torture. Revenge. Giants. Monsters.  
Chases. Escapes. True love.  
Miracles.

**CUT TO:**

THE TWO OF THEM as the Grandfather sits in a chair by the bed.

**THE KID**

(manages a shrug)  
It doesn't sound too bad. I'll  
try and stay awake.

**GRANDFATHER**

Oh. Well, thank you very much.  
It's very nice of you. Your vote  
of confidence is overwhelming.  
All right.

(Book open now, he  
begins to read.)  
The Princess Bride, by S.  
Morgenstern. Chapter One.  
Buttercup was raised on a small  
farm in the country of Florin.

**DISSOLVE TO:**

The story he's reading about, as the monochromatic look of  
the bedroom is replaced by the dazzling color of the English  
countryside.

**GRANDFATHER**

(off-screen)  
Her favorite pastimes were riding  
her horse and tormenting the farm  
boy that worked there. His name  
was Westley, but she never called  
him that.  
(to the kid)  
Isn't that a wonderful beginning?

**THE KID**

(off-screen doing his best)

Yeah. It's really good.

**GRANDFATHER**

(off-screen reading)

Nothing gave Buttercup as much  
pleasure as ordering Westley  
around.

**CUT TO:**

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4.

**BUTTERCUPS FARM - DAY**

BUTTERCUP is standing, holding the reins of her horse, while in the background, WESTLEY, in the stable doorway, looks at her. Buttercup is in her late teens; doesn't care much about clothes and she hates brushing her long hair, so she isn't as attractive as she might be, but she's still probably the most beautiful woman in the world.

**BUTTERCUP**

Farm boy. Polish my horse's  
saddle. I want to see my face  
shining in it by morning.

**WESTLEY**

(quietly, watching her)  
As you wish.

Westley is perhaps half a dozen years older than Buttercup. And maybe as handsome as she is beautiful. He gazes at her as she walks away.

**GRANDFATHER**

(off-screen)

"As you wish" was all he ever  
said to her.

**DISSOLVE TO:**

WESTLEY, outside, chopping wood. Buttercup drops two large buckets near him.

**BUTTERCUP**

Farm Boy. Fill these with water --  
(a beat)  
--please.

**WESTLEY**

As you wish.

She leaves; his eyes stay on her. She stops, turns -- he manages to look away as now her eyes stay on him.

**GRANDFATHER**

(off-screen)  
That day, she was amazed to  
discover that when he was saying,  
"As you wish," what he meant was,  
"I love you."

**DISSOLVE TO:**

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5.

**BUTTERCUP IN THE KITCHEN - DUSK**

Westley enters with an armload of firewood.

**GRANDFATHER**

(off-screen)  
And even more amazing was the day  
she realized she truly loved him  
back.

**BUTTERCUP**

(pointing to a pitcher  
that she could reach herself)  
Farm Boy, fetch me that pitcher.

He gets it, hands it to her; they are standing very close to  
each other gazing into each other's eyes.

**WESTLEY**

As you wish.

Now he turns, moves outside.

**DISSOLVE TO:**

WESTLEY AND BUTTERCUP, outside his tiny hovel in the red  
glow of sunset. They are locked in a passionate kiss.

**THE KID**

(off-screen)  
-hold it, hold it-

**CUT TO:**

**THE KID'S ROOM**

**THE KID**

What is this? Are you trying to  
trick me? -- Where's the sports? --  
Is this a kissing book?

**GRANDFATHER**

-- wait, just wait --

**THE KID**

-- well, when does it get good?

**GRANDFATHER**

Keep your shirt on. Let me read.  
(reading again)  
Westley had no money for marriage.  
So he packed his few belongings  
and left the farm to seek his  
fortune across the sea.

**CUT TO:**

---

6.

**WESTLEY AND BUTTERCUP**

They stand near the gate to the farm, locked in an embrace.

**GRANDFATHER**

(off-screen reading)  
It was a very emotional time for  
Buttercup --

**THE KID**

(off-screen groaning)  
I don't be-leeve this.

**BUTTERCUP**

I fear I'll never see you again.

**WESTLEY**

Of course you will.

**BUTTERCUP**

But what if something happens to  
you?

**WESTLEY**

Hear this now: I will come for you.

**BUTTERCUP**

But how can you be sure?

**WESTLEY**

This is true love. You think this  
happens every day?

He smiles at her, she smiles too, throws her arms so tightly  
around him. They kiss. Then as Westley walks away, Buttercup  
watches him go.

**GRANDFATHER**

(off-screen reading)  
Westley didn't reach his  
destination. His ship was attacked  
by the Dread Pirate Roberts, who  
never left captives alive. When

Buttercup got the news that  
Westley was murdered --

**THE KID**

(off-screen, perking  
up a little)  
-- murdered by pirates is good --

**CUT TO:**

CLOSE UP: Buttercup, staring out the window of her room.

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7.

**GRANDFATHER**

(off-screen)  
She went into her room and shut  
the door. And for days, she  
neither slept nor ate.

**BUTTERCUP**

(no emotion at all in  
her voice)  
I will never love again.

HOLD ON HER FACE, perfect and perfectly sad.

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**FLORIN CASTLE - DAY**

The main courtyard of Florin replete with townspeople,  
livestock, and a bustling marketplace.

**GRANDFATHER**

(off-screen reading)  
Five years later, the main square  
of Florin City was filled as  
never before to hear the  
announcement of the great Prince  
Humperdinck's bride-to be.

**CUT TO:**

PRINCE HUMPERDINCK, a man of incredible power and bearing,  
standing in his royal robes on a castle balcony. Three  
others standing behind him: an OLD COUPLE with crowns, the  
aging KING AND QUEEN, and a dark bearded man who seems the  
Prince's match in strength: this is COUNT RUGEN.

**HUMPERDINCK**

(raises his hands,  
starts to speak)  
My people ... a month from now,  
our country will have its 500th  
anniversary. On that sundown, I

shall marry a lady who was once a  
commoner like yourselves --  
    (pause)  
-- but perhaps you will not find  
her common now. Would you like to  
meet her?

And the answering YESSSS booms like summer thunder.

**CUT TO:**

---

8.

A giant staircase leading to the CROWD and as a FIGURE just  
begins to become visible,

**CUT TO:**

THE CROWD, as they see the figure. (We haven't yet.) And if  
there is such a thing as collective action, then this crowd,  
collectively, holds its breath.

**CUT TO:**

THE STAIRCASE, as the figure appears in the archway. It is  
Buttercup. And she resplendent.

**HUMPERDINCK**

My people ... the Princess  
Buttercup!!

She descends the stairs and starts to move amongst the people.

**CUT TO:**

THE CROWD, and they do a very strange thing: with no  
instruction at all, they suddenly go to their knees. Great  
waves of people kneeling and --

**CUT TO:**

BUTTERCUP, terribly moved. She stands immobile among her  
subjects, blinking back tears. HOLD on her beauty for a  
moment.

**GRANDFATHER**

(off-screen)  
Buttercup's emptiness consumed  
her. Although the law of the land  
gave Humperdinck the right to  
choose his bride, she did not  
love him.

**CUT TO:**

**WOODLANDS**

-- and Buttercup, barreling along, controlling her horse easily.

**GRANDFATHER**

(off-screen)

Despite Humperdinck's reassurance that she would grow to love him, the only joy she found was in her daily ride.

**CUT TO:**

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9.

**A WOODED GLEN - CLOSE TO SUNDOWN**

Lovely, quiet, deserted. Buttercup suddenly reins in.

**VOICE**

A word, my lady?

**CUT TO:**

THREE MEN, standing close together in the path. Beyond them can be seen the waters of Florin Channel. The three men are not your everyday commuter types. Standing in front is a tiny man with the most angelic face. He is Sicilian and his name is VIZZINI. Beside him is a Spaniard, erect and taut as a blade of steel. His name is INIGO MONTTOYA. Beside him is a giant. His name is FEZZIK.

**VIZZINI**

We are but poor, lost circus performers. Is there a village nearby?

**BUTTERCUP**

There is nothing nearby; not for miles.

**VIZZINI**

Then there will be no one to hear you scream-

He nods to the giant, Fezzik, who merely reaches over, touches a nerve on Buttercup's neck, and the start of a scream is all she manages --unconsciousness comes that fast. As she starts to fall --

**CUT TO:**

**A TINY ISOLATED SPOT AT THE EDGE OF FLORIN CHANNEL**

A sailboat is moored. It's dusk now, shadows are long. Inigo, the Spaniard, busies himself getting the boat ready.

**CUT TO:**

The giant Fezzik carries Buttercup, unconscious, on board.

Vizzini rips some tiny pieces of fabric from an army jacket and tucks them along the saddle of Buttercup's horse. There is about the entire operation a sense of tremendous skill and precision.

**INIGO**

What is that you're ripping?

---

10.

**VIZZINI**

(not stopping or turning)

It's fabric from the uniform of an Army officer of Guilder.

**FEZZIK**

Who's Guilder?

**VIZZINI**

(pointing straight out)

The country across the sea. The sworn enemy of Florin.

(slaps the horse's rump)

Go!

The horse takes off. They start for the boat.

**VIZZINI**

Once the horse reaches the castle, the fabric will make the Prince suspect the Guildierians have abducted his love. When he finds her body dead on the Guilder frontier, his suspicions will be totally confirmed.

**FEZZIK**

You never said anything about killing anyone.

Vizzini hops onto the boat.

**VIZZINI**

I've hired you to help me start a war. That's a prestigious line of work with a long and glorious tradition.

**FEZZIK**

I just don't think it's right, killing an innocent girl.

**VIZZINI**

(whirling on Fezzik)  
Am I going mad or did the word  
"think" escape your lips? You  
were not hired for your brains,  
you hippopotamic land mass.

**INIGO**

I agree with Fezzik.

**CUT TO:**

---

11.

CLOSE UP: Vizzini, in a fury.

**VIZZINI**

(We only thought he  
was in a fury --now  
he's really getting mad)  
Oh. The sot has spoken. What  
happens to her is not truly your  
concern -- I will kill her --  
(louder)  
And remember this -- never forget  
this --

**CUT TO:**

INIGO AND FEZZIK, as Vizzini advances on them. Nothing shows  
on Inigo's face, but FEZZIK is panicked by Vizzini.

**VIZZINI**

(to Inigo)  
-- when I found you, you were so  
slobbering drunk you couldn't buy  
brandy --  
(now to Fezzik, who  
retreats as much as he  
can while Vizzini advances)  
-- and you -- friendless,  
brainless, helpless, hopeless --  
Do you want me to send you back  
to where you were, unemployed in  
Greenland?

Vizzini glares at him, then turns, leaves them.

During this, Inigo has gone close to FEZZIK, who is very  
distressed at the insults he's just received. As Inigo casts  
off.

**INIGO**

(softly)  
That Vizzini, he can fuss.

(a slight emphasis on  
the last word)

**FEZZIK**

(looking at Inigo)  
... fuss ... fuss ...  
(Suddenly, he's got it  
again, emphasis on the  
last word.)  
I think he likes to scream at us.

---

12.

**INIGO**

Probably he means no harm.

**FEZZIK**

He's really very short on charm.

**INIGO**

(proudly)  
Oh, you've a great gift for rhyme.

**FEZZIK**

Yes, some of the time.  
(he starts to smile)

**VIZZINI**

(whirling on them)  
Enough of that.

As they sail off, we hear their voices as the boat recedes.

**INIGO**

FEZZIK, are there rocks ahead?

**FEZZIK**

If there are, we'll all be dead.

**VIZZINI**

No more rhymes now, I mean it.

**FEZZIK**

Anybody want a peanut?

As Vizzini screams we:

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**THE SAILBOAT RACING ACROSS THE DARK WATERS**

Inigo is at the helm, FEZZIK stands near the body of the princess, whose eyelids flutter slightly -- or do they? Vizzini sits motionless. The waves are higher, there are

only occasional flashes of moon slanting down between clouds.

**VIZZINI**

(to Inigo)

We'll reach the Cliffs by dawn.

Inigo nods, glances back.

**VIZZINI**

Why are you doing that?

---

13.

**INIGO**

Making sure nobody's following us.

**VIZZINI**

That would be inconceivable.

**BUTTERCUP**

Despite what you think, you will be caught. And when you are, the Prince will see you all hanged.

Vizzini turns a cold eye on the Princess.

**VIZZINI**

Of all the necks on this boat, Highness, the one you should be worrying about is your own.

Inigo keeps staring behind them.

**VIZZINI**

Stop doing that. We can all relax, it's almost over-

**INIGO**

You're sure nobody's following us?

**VIZZINI**

As I told you, it would be absolutely, totally, and in all other ways, inconceivable. No one in Guilder knows what we've done. And no one in Florin could have gotten here so fast. Out of curiosity, why do you ask?

**INIGO**

No reason. It's only, I just happened to look behind us, and something is there.

**VIZZINI**

What?

And suddenly the three whirl, stare back and as they do --

**CUT TO:**

**THE DARKNESS BEHIND THEM**

It's hard to see; the moon is behind clouds now. But the wind whistles. And the waves pound.

---

**14.**

And suddenly it's all gone ominous.

**CUT TO:**

INIGO, FEZZIK, AND VIZZINI squinting back, trying desperately to see. At this moment, they are all holding their breaths.

**CUT TO:**

**THE DARKNESS BEHIND THEM**

And there's still nothing to be seen. It's still ominous. Only now it's eerie too.

Then --

The moon slips through and --

Inigo was right -- something is very much there. A sailboat. Black. With a great billowing sail. Black. It's a good distance behind them, but it's coming like hell, closing the gap.

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO, FEZZIK, AND VIZZINI**

staring at the other boat.

**VIZZINI**

(explaining with as  
much logic as he can muster)  
Probably some local fisherman out  
for a pleasure cruise at night  
through eel-infested waters.

And now as a sound comes from their boat they turn as we

**CUT TO:**

BUTTERCUP, diving into the water, starting to swim away.

**CUT TO:**

**THE BOAT**

and Vizzini screaming.

**VIZZINI**

Go in, get after her!

**INIGO**

I don't swim.

---

15.

**FEZZIK**

(to the unasked question)

I only dog paddle.

**VIZZINI**

Veer left. Left. Left!

**CUT TO:**

**BUTTERCUP**

still close to the boat, switching from a crawl to a silent breast stroke. The wind dies and as it does, something new is heard. A not-too-distant high-pitched shrieking sound. Buttercup stops suddenly, treads water.

**CUT TO:**

**THE BOAT**

**VIZZINI**

Do you know what that sound is, Highness? Those are the Shrieking Eels -- if you doubt me, just wait. They always grow louder when they're about to feed on human flesh.

**CUT TO:**

BUTTERCUP, treading water, still not far from the boat. The shrieking sounds are getting louder and more terrifying. Buttercup stays silent.

**CUT TO:**

**THE BOAT**

**VIZZINI**

If you swim back now, I promise, no harm will come to you. I doubt you will get such an offer from the Eels.

**CUT TO:**

BUTTERCUP, and she's a gutsy girl. The shrieking sound is louder still, but she doesn't make a sound. Behind her now, something dark and gigantic slithers past.

She's scared, sure, petrified, who wouldn't be, but she makes no reply --

-- and now a SHRIEKING EEL has zeroed in on her --

---

**16.**

-- and now she sees it, a short distance away, circling, starting to close --

-- and Buttercup is frozen, trying not to make a movement of any kind --

-- and the Eel slithers closer, closer --

-- and Buttercup knows it now, there's nothing she can do, it's over, all over --

-- and now the Eel opens its mouth wide, and it's never made such a noise, and as its great jaws are about to clamp down --

**GRANDFATHER**

(off-screen)

She doesn't get eaten by the Eels  
at this time.

And the second we hear him:

**CUT TO:**

**THE SICK KID'S ROOM**

The Kid looks the same, pale and weak, but maybe he's gripping the sheets a little too tightly with his hands.

**THE KID**

What?

**GRANDFATHER**

The Eel doesn't get her. I'm  
explaining to you because you  
looked nervous.

**THE KID**

Well, I wasn't nervous.

His Grandfather says nothing, just waits.

**THE KID**

Well, maybe I was a little bit concerned. But that's not the same thing.

**GRANDFATHER**

Because I can stop now if you want.

**THE KID**

No. You could read a little bit more ... if you want.

---

17.

He grips the sheets again, as the Grandfather picks up the book.

**GRANDFATHER**

(reading)

"Do you know what that sound is, Highness?"

**CUT TO:**

**VIZZINI**

We're back in the boat.

**VIZZINI**

Those are the Shrieking Eels.

**THE KID**

(off-screen)

We're past that, Grandpa.

**CUT TO:**

**THE SICK KID'S ROOM**

**THE KID**

You read it already.

**GRANDFATHER**

Oh. Oh my goodness, I did. I'm sorry. Beg your pardon.

**CUT TO:**

**BUTTERCUP**

treading water.

**GRANDFATHER**

(off-screen)

All right, all right, let's see. Uh, she was in the water, the Eel was coming after her. She was

frightened. The Eel started to charge her. And then -

And we're back where we were at the last moment we saw her, Buttercup frozen, the Shrieking Eel, jaws wide, about to clamp down as we

**CUT TO:**

---

18.

**A GIANT ARM**

pounding the Eel unconscious in one move, then easily lifting Buttercup.

**PULL BACK TO REVEAL**

The boat and FEZZIK, Buttercup being deposited on the deck.

**VIZZINI**

Put her down. Just put her down.

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

pointing behind them.

**INIGO**

I think he's getting closer.

Vizzini, tying Buttercup's hands.

**VIZZINI**

He's no concern of ours. Sail on!

(to Buttercup)

I suppose you think you're brave, don't you?

**BUTTERCUP**

(staring deep at him)

Only compared to some.

**DISSOLVE TO:**

The boat at dawn, being followed closely by the black sailboat, which we can see for the first time is being sailed by a MAN IN BLACK, and his boat almost seems to be flying.

**INIGO**

Look! He's right on top of us. I wonder if he is using the same wind we are using.

**VIZZINI**

Whoever he is, he's too late --  
    (pointing ahead of them)  
-- see?  
    (big)  
The Cliffs of Insanity.

---

**19.**

And once he's said the name--

**CUT TO:**

**THE CLIFFS OF INSANITY - DAWN**

They rise straight up, sheer from the water, impossibly high.

**CUT TO:**

**THE TWO SAILBOATS**

in a wild race for the Cliffs and the Man In Black is closing faster than ever, but not fast enough, the lead was too great to overcome, and as Inigo sails with great precision straight at the Cliffs

**CUT TO:**

**THE BOAT**

being pursued.

**VIZZINI**

Hurry up. Move the thing! Um ...  
that other thing. Move it!  
    (staring back now)  
We're safe -- only FEZZIK is  
strong enough to go up our way --  
he'll have to sail around for  
hours 'til he finds a harbor.

There is much activity going on, all of it swift, expert, economical. FEZZIK reaches up along the Cliff face, grabs a jutting rock, reaches behind it. Suddenly there is a thick rope in his hands. He drops back to the boat, gives the rope a freeing swing and

**CUT TO:**

**THE CLIFFS**

The rope goes all the way to the top.

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

hurrying to FEZZIK. He straps a harness to him, then lifts Buttercup and Vizzini in the harness. Finally, he himself gets in the harness. All three are strapped to FEZZIK like papooses.

---

**20.**

And he starts to ascend the rope, carrying them all along with him as he goes.

**CUT TO:**

THE MAN IN BLACK, sailing in toward the Cliffs of Insanity, watching as FEZZIK rises swiftly through the first moments of dawn.

**CUT TO:**

**THE TOP OF THE CLIFFS - LOOKING DOWN**

FEZZIK'S GROUP is only faintly visible far below. This is the first time we've gotten the real vertigo feeling and it's a gasper.

**CUT TO:**

FEZZIK CLIMBING ON. Buttercup is almost out of her mind with fear.

**CUT TO:**

**THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE CLIFFS**

FEZZIK is moving right along; however high they are, he's already over a third of the way done.

**CUT TO:**

**THE MAN IN BLACK**

leaping from his ship to the rope, starting to climb. He's impossibly far behind, but the way he goes you'd think he didn't know that because he is flying up the rope, hand over hand like lightning.

**CUT TO:**

**VIZZINI AND THE OTHERS**

**INIGO**

(looking down)

He's climbing the rope. And he's gaining on us.

**VIZZINI**

Inconceivable!

He prods FEZZIK, who nods, increases his pace.

**CUT TO:**

---

21.

**THE MAN IN BLACK**

roaring up the rope, and

**CUT TO:**

**LONG SHOT - THE CLIFFS**

-- and the Man In Black is cutting deeply into FEZZIK's lead.

**CUT TO:**

**VIZZINI AND THE OTHERS**

**VIZZINI**

(shrieking)

Faster!

**FEZZIK**

I thought I was going faster.

**VIZZINI**

You were supposed to be this colossus. You were this great, legendary thing. And yet he gains.

**FEZZIK**

Well, I'm carrying three people. And he's got only himself.

**VIZZINI**

(cutting through)

-- I do not accept excuses.

(shaking his head)

I'm just going to have to find myself a new giant, that's all.

**FEZZIK**

(hurt)

Don't say that, Vizzini. Please.

And his arms begin moving much more slowly.

**CUT TO:**

**THE MAN IN BLACK**

His arms still work as before. If anything, he has speeded

up. FEZZIK's lead is smaller and smaller

**CUT TO:**

---

22.

**THE VIEW FROM THE TOP OF THE CLIFFS**

Maybe a hundred feet for FEZZIK to go. Maybe more.

**CUT TO:**

VIZZINI AND THE OTHERS, and it's getting too close now.

**VIZZINI**

Did I make it clear that your job  
is at stake?

**CUT TO:**

**THE MAN IN BLACK**

less than a hundred feet behind them. And gaining.

**CUT TO:**

**THE CLIFF TOP AS FEZZIK MAKES IT!**

Vizzini leaps off and takes out a knife, begins to cut the rope which is tied around a great rock while Inigo helps the Princess to her feet and FEZZIK just stands around, waiting for someone to tell him to do something. Nearby are some stone ruins. Once they might have been a fort, now the kind of resemble Stonehenge.

**CUT TO:**

**THE MAN IN BLACK**

feet from the top now, maybe less -- maybe only 50 -- and his pace is as dazzling as before, and

**CUT TO:**

**VIZZINI**

cutting through the last of the rope and

**CUT TO:**

**THE ROPE**

slithering across the ground and out of sight toward the Channel, like some great serpent at last going home.

**CUT TO:**

**FEZZIK**

standing with Inigo and Buttercup by the cliff edge.

---

23.

**FEZZIK**

(to Inigo -- impressed)  
He has very good arms.

**CUT TO:**

**THE MAN IN BLACK**

hanging suspended hundreds of feet in the air, holding to the jagged rocks, desperately trying to cling to life.

**CUT TO:**

**VIZZINI**

stunned, turning to the others, looking down.

**VIZZINI**

He didn't fall? Inconceivable!!

**INIGO**

(whirling on Vizzini)  
You keep using that word -- I do not think it means what you think it means.

(looks down again)  
My God! He's climbing.

**CUT TO:**

**THE MAN IN BLACK**

and so he is. Very slowly, he is picking his way upwards, sometimes a foot at a time, sometimes an inch.

**CUT TO:**

The group at the top, staring down.

**VIZZINI**

Whoever he is, he's obviously seen us with the Princess, and must therefore die.

(to Fezzik)

You, carry her.

(to Inigo)

We'll head straight for the Guilder frontier. Catch up when he's dead. If he falls, fine. If

not, the sword.

Inigo nods.

---

**24.**

**INIGO**

I want to duel him left-handed.

**VIZZINI**

You know what a hurry we're in.

**INIGO**

Well, it's the only way I can be satisfied. If I use my right -- tch -- over too quickly.

**VIZZINI**

(turns abruptly,  
starts off-screen)  
Oh, have it your way.

**CUT TO:**

**THE MAN IN BLACK**

still creeping his way upward.

**CUT TO:**

**FEZZIK**

who goes to Inigo.

**FEZZIK**

You be careful.  
(gravely)  
-- people in masks cannot be trusted.

**VIZZINI**

(calling out)  
I'm waiting!

FEZZIK nods, hurries after Vizzini.

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

He watches them depart, then turns, peers down over the Cliffs. He watches a moment, then paces, shaking his hands loose. He practices a few of his honed fencing skills. He is a taut and nervous fellow, and has never been one for waiting around.

CUT TO:

---

25.

**THE MAN IN BLACK**

climbing on. He must be six inches closer to the top than when last we saw him. Inigo is watching.

CUT TO:

**INIGO**

walking away. Finally he goes back to cliff edge, starts to talk. It's instant death if the Man In Black falls, but neither gives that possibility much credence. This is our two heroes meeting. They don't know it yet; but that's what it is.

**INIGO**

(hollering down)

Hello there.

The Man In Black glances up, kind of grunts.

**INIGO**

Slow going?

**MAN IN BLACK**

Look, I don't mean to be rude, but this is not as easy as it looks. So I'd appreciate it if you wouldn't distract me.

**INIGO**

Sorry.

**MAN IN BLACK**

Thank you.

Inigo steps away, draws his sword, loosens up with a few perfect thrusts. Then resheathes and looks eagerly over the edge again.

**INIGO**

I do not suppose you could speed things up?

**MAN IN BLACK**

(with some beat)

If you're in such a hurry, you could lower a rope, or a tree branch, or find something useful to do.

---

26.

**INIGO**

I could do that. In fact, I've got some rope up here. But I do not think that you will accept my help, since I am only waiting around to kill you.

**MAN IN BLACK**

That does put a damper on our relationship.

He finds another bold a few inches higher.

**INIGO**

But I promise I will not kill you until you reach the top.

**MAN IN BLACK**

That's very comforting. But I'm afraid you'll just have to wait.

**INIGO**

I hate waiting. I could give you my word as a Spaniard.

**MAN IN BLACK**

No good. I've known too many Spaniards.

And he just hangs there in space, resting, gathering his strength.

**INIGO**

You don't know any way you'll trust me?

**MAN IN BLACK**

Nothing comes to mind.

And on these words, CAMERA ZOOMS into a CLOSE UP on Inigo. He raises his right hand high, his eyes blaze, and his voice takes on a tone we have not heard before.

**INIGO**

I swear on the soul of my father, Domingo Montoya, you will reach the top alive.

**CUT TO:**

**THE MAN IN BLACK.**

There is a pause. Then, quietly:

---

**MAN IN BLACK**

Throw me the rope.

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

He dashes to the giant rock the rope was originally tied to.

**CUT TO:**

**THE MAN IN BLACK**

as his grip loosens a moment, trying to cling to the side of the cliff.

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

now with a small coil of rope, hurries back to the edge and hurls it over --

**CUT TO:**

**THE ROPE**

It hangs close to the Man In Black. He releases the rocks, grabs the rope, hangs helplessly in space a moment, then looks up at Inigo and --

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

straining, forcing his body away from the cliff edge and --

**CUT TO:**

**THE MAN IN BLACK**

rising through the early morning light, slowly, steadily, and as the cliff top at last comes within reach --

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

watching as the Man In Black crawls to safety, then looks to Inigo.

**MAN IN BLACK**

(pulling his sword)

Thank you.

**INIGO**

We'll wait until you're ready.

**MAN IN BLACK**

Again. Thank you.

The Man In Black sits to rest on the boulder that once held the rope. He tugs off his leather boots and is amazed to see several large rocks tumble out. The Man In Black wears gloves. Inigo stares at them.

**INIGO**

I do not mean to pry, but you don't by any chance happen to have six fingers on your right hand?

He glances up -- the question clearly baffles him.

**MAN IN BLACK**

Do you always begin conversations this way?

**INIGO**

My father was slaughtered by a six-fingered man. He was a great swordmaker, my father. And when the six-fingered man appeared and requested a special sword, my father took the job. He slaved a year before he was done.

He hands his sword to the Man In Black.

**MAN IN BLACK**

(fondling it-impressed)  
I have never seen its equal.

**CUT TO:**

**CLOSE UP - INIGO**

Even now, this still brings pain.

**INIGO**

The six-fingered man returned and demanded it, but at one-tenth his promised price. My father refused. Without a word, the six-fingered man slashed him through the heart. I loved my father, so, naturally, challenged his murderer to a duel ... I failed ...

(MORE)

---

29.

**INIGO (CONT'D)**

the six-fingered man did leave me  
alive with the six-fingered  
sword, but he gave me these.

He touches his scars.

**CUT TO:**

**THE MAN IN BLACK**

looking up at Inigo.

**MAN IN BLACK**

How old were you?

**INIGO**

I was eleven years old. When I  
was strong enough, I dedicated my  
life to the study of fencing. So  
the next time we meet, I will not  
fail. I will go up to the  
sixfingered man and say, "Hello,  
my name is Inigo Montoya. You  
killed my father. Prepare to die."

**MAN IN BLACK**

You've done nothing but study  
swordplay?

**INIGO**

More pursuit than study lately.  
You see, I cannot find him. It's  
been twenty years now. I am  
starting to lose confidence. I  
just work for Vizzini to pay the  
bills. There's not a lot of money  
in revenge.

**MAN IN BLACK**

(handing back the  
great sword, starting  
to rise)

Well, I certainly hope you find  
him, someday.

**INIGO**

You are ready, then?

**MAN IN BLACK**

Whether I am or not, you've been  
more than fair.

---

30.

**INIGO**

You seem a decent fellow. I hate  
to kill you.

**MAN IN BLACK**

(walking away a few  
paces, unsheathing his sword)  
You seem a decent fellow. I hate  
to die.

**INIGO**

Begin!

And on that word --

**CUT TO:**

**THE TWO OF THEM**

And what we are starting now is one of the two greatest  
sword fights in modern movies (the other one happens later  
on), and right from the beginning it looks different.

Because they aren't close to each other -- none of the  
swordscrossing "en garde" garbage.

No, what we have here is two men, two athletes, and they  
look to be too faraway to damage each other, but each time  
one makes even the tiniest feint, the other counters, and  
there is silence, and as they start to circle --

**CUT TO:**

**THE SIX-FINGERED SWORD**

feinting here, feinting there and --

**CUT TO:**

**THE TWO MEN**

finished teasing, begin to duel in earnest.

Their swords cross, then again, again, and the sound comes  
so fast it's almost continual. Inigo presses on, the Man In  
Black retreating up a rocky incline.

**INIGO**

(thrilled)  
You're using Bonetti's defense  
against me, ah?

---

31.

**MAN IN BLACK**

I thought it fitting, considering  
the rocky terrain --

**INIGO**

Naturally, you must expect me to  
attack with Capo Ferro.

And he shifts his style now.

**MAN IN BLACK**

(coping as best he can)  
-- naturally --  
(suddenly shifting again)  
--but I find Thibault cancels out  
Capo Ferro, don't you?

The Man In Black is now perched at the edge of the elevated  
castle ruin. No where to go, he jumps to the sand.

Inigo stares down at him.

**INIGO**

Unless the enemy has studied his  
Agrippa-

And now, with the grace of an Olympian, Inigo flies off the  
perch, somersaults clean over the Man In Black's head, and  
lands facing his opponent.

**INIGO**

-- which I have.

The two men are almost flying across the rocky terrain,  
never losing balance, never coming close to stumbling; the  
battle rages with incredible finesse, first one and then the  
other gaining the advantage, and by now, it's clear that  
this isn't just two athletes going at it, it's a lot more  
than that. This is two legendary swashbucklers and they're  
in their prime, it's Burt Lancaster in "The Crimson Pirate"  
battling Errol Flynn in "Robin Hood" and then, incredibly,  
the action begins going even faster than before as we

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

And behind him now, drawing closer all the time, is the  
deadly edge of the Cliffs of Insanity. Inigo fights and  
ducks and feints and slashes and it all works, but not for  
long, as gradually the Man In Black keeps the advantage,  
keeps forcing Inigo back, closer and closer to death.

**INIGO**

(happy as a clam)  
You are wonderful!

**MAN IN BLACK**

Thank you -- I've worked hard to  
become so.

The Cliff edge is very close now. Inigo is continually being  
forced toward it.

**INIGO**

I admit it -- you are better than  
I am.

**MAN IN BLACK**

Then why are you smiling?

Inches from defeat, Inigo is, in fact, all smiles.

**INIGO**

Because I know something you  
don't know.

**MAN IN BLACK**

And what is that?

**INIGO**

I am not left-handed.

And he throws the six-fingered sword into his right hand and  
immediately, the tide of battle turns.

**CUT TO:**

**THE MAN IN BLACK**

stunned, doing everything he can to keep Inigo by the Cliff  
edge. But no use. Slowly at first, he begins to retreat. Now  
faster, Inigo is in control and the Man In Black is desperate.

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

and the six-fingered sword is all but invisible now, as he  
increases his attack, then suddenly switches styles again.

**CUT TO:**

---

**33.**

A ROCKY STAIRCASE leading to a turret-shaped plateau, and  
the Man In Black is retreating like mad up the steps and he  
can't stop Inigo -- nothing can stop Inigo -- and in a

frenzy, the Man In Black makes every feint, tries every thrust, lets go with all he has left. But he fails. Everything fails. He tries one or two final desperate moves but they are nothing.

**MAN IN BLACK**

You're amazing!

**INIGO**

I ought to be after twenty years.

And now the Man In Black is smashed into a stone pillar, pinned there under the six fingered sword.

**MAN IN BLACK**

(hollering it out)

There's something I ought to tell you.

**INIGO**

Tell me.

**MAN IN BLACK**

I am not left-handed either.

And now he changes hands, and at last, the battle is fully joined.

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

And to his amazement, he is being forced back down the steps. He tries one style, another, but it all comes down to the same thing -- the Man In Black seems to be in control. And before Inigo knows it, the six-fingered sword is knocked clear out of his hand.

Inigo retreats, dives from the stairs to a moss-covered bar suspended over the archway. He swings out, lands, and scrambles to his sword and we

**CUT TO:**

**THE MAN IN BLACK**

who watches Inigo, then casually tosses his sword to the landing where it sticks in perfectly. Then the Man In Black copies INIGO. Not copies exactly, improves.

-----  
**34.**

He dives to the bar, swings completely over it like a circus performer and dismounts with a backflip.

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

staring in awe.

**INIGO**

Who are you?!

**MAN IN BLACK**

No one of consequence.

**INIGO**

I must know.

**MAN IN BLACK**

Get used to disappointment.

**INIGO**

Okay.

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

moving like lightning, and he thrusts forward, slashes, darts back, all in almost a single movement and --

**CUT TO:**

**THE MAN IN BLACK**

Dodging, blocking, and again he thrusts forward, faster even than before, and again he slashes but --

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

And there is never a move anyone makes he doesn't remember, and this time he blocks the slash, slashes out himself with the sixfingered sword.

On it goes, back and forth across the rocky terrain, Inigo's feet moving with the grace and speed of a great improvisational dancer.

**CUT TO:**

-----  
35.

**THE SIX-FINGERED SWORD**

as it is knocked free, arching up into the air, and --

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

catching it again. And something terrible is written behind his eyes: he has given his all, done everything man can do, tried every style, made every maneuver, but it wasn't enough, and on his face for all to see is the realization that he, Inigo Montoya of Spain, is going to lose.

**CUT TO:**

**THE MAN IN BLACK**

moving in for the end now, blocking everything, muzzling everything and

**CUT TO:**

**THE SIX-FINGERED SWORD**

sent flying from Inigo's grip. He stands helpless only a moment. Then he drops to his knees, bows his head, shuts his eyes.

**INIGO**

Kill me quickly.

**MAN IN BLACK**

I would as soon destroy a stained glass window as an artist like yourself. However, since I can't have you following me either --

And he dunks Inigo's head with his heavy sword handle. Inigo pitches forward unconscious.

**MAN IN BLACK**

Please understand, I hold you in the highest respect.

He grabs his scabbard and takes off after the Princess and we

**CUT TO:**

**CLOSE UP: VIZZINI**

**VIZZINI**

Inconceivable!

---

36.

**PULL BACK TO REVEAL**

Vizzini, staring down from a narrow mountain path, as far below the Man In Black can be seen running. FEZZIK, carrying the Princess, stands alongside. It's a little later in the morning.

**VIZZINI**

Give her to me.  
(grabs Buttercup  
starts off)  
Catch up with us quickly.

**FEZZIK**

(starting to panic)  
What do I do?

**VIZZINI**

Finish him, finish him. Your way.

**FEZZIK**

Oh, good, my way. Thank you,  
Vizzini.  
(little pause)  
Which way is my way?

**CUT TO:**

**A COUPLE OF ROCKS**

Nothing gigantic. Vizzini points to them. There is a large boulder nearby.

**VIZZINI**

Pick up one of those rocks, get behind the boulder, and in a few minutes, the Man in Black will come running around the bend. The minute his head is in view, hit it with the rock!

As Vizzini and Buttercup hurry away.

**FEZZIK**

(little frown; softly)  
My way's not very sportsmanlike.

He grabs one of the rocks and plods behind the boulder and we --

**DISSOLVE TO:**

-----  
37.

**THE MAN IN BLACK**

racing up the mountain trail. Ahead is a bend in the trail. He sees it, slows. Then he stops, listening.

Satisfied by the silence, he starts forward again and as he rounds the bend -- a rock flies INTO FRAME, shattering on a boulder inches in front of him.

**CUT TO:**

**FEZZIK**

He moves into the mountain path. He has picked up another rock and holds it lightly.

**FEZZIK**

I did that on purpose. I don't have to miss.

**MAN IN BLACK**

I believe you -- So what happens now?

**FEZZIK**

We face each other as God intended. Sportsmanlike. No tricks, no weapons, skill against skill alone.

**MAN IN BLACK**

You mean, you'll put down your rock and I'll put down my sword, and we'll try to kill each other like civilized people?

**FEZZIK**

(gently)  
I could kill you now.

He gets set to throw, but the Man In Black shakes his head, takes off his sword and scabbard, begins the approach toward the Giant.

**MAN IN BLACK**

Frankly, I think the odds are slightly in your favor at hand fighting.

**FEZZIK**

It's not my fault being the biggest and the strongest. I don't even exercise.

---

**38.**

He flips the rock away.

**CUT TO:**

**THE MOUNTAIN PATH AND THE TWO MEN**

The Man In Black is not now and has never been a shrimp. But it's like he wasn't even there, FEZZIK towers over him so much.

There is a moment's pause, and then the Man In Black dives at FEZZIK's chest, slams him several tremendous blows in the stomach, twists his arm severely, slips skillfully into a beautifully applied bear hug, and in general makes any number of terrific wrestling moves.

FEZZIK just stands there, kind of taking in the scenery. Finally the Man In Black pushes himself away, stares up at the Giant.

**MAN IN BLACK**

Look are you just fiddling around with me or what?

**FEZZIK**

I just want you to feel you're doing well. I hate for people to die embarrassed.

They get set to begin again. Then suddenly --

**CUT TO:**

**FEZZIK**

as he jumps forward with stunning speed for anyone his size and reaches for the Man In Black who drops to his knees, spins loose, and slips between the Giant's legs.

**FEZZIK**

You're quick.

**MAN IN BLACK**

And a good thing too.

**FEZZIK**

(getting set for another onslaught)  
Why do you wear a mask? Were you burned by acid, or something like that?

---

39.

**MAN IN BLACK**

Oh no. It's just that they're terribly comfortable. I think everyone will be wearing them in the future.

FEZZIK considers this a moment, then attacks, and if he moved quickly last time, this time he is blinding and as the Man In Black slips down to avoid the charge, FEZZIK moves right with him, only instead of twisting free and jumping to his feet, this time the Man In Black jumps for FEZZIK's back

and in a moment he is riding him, and his arms have FEZZIK's throat, locked across FEZZIK's windpipe, one in front, one behind. The Man In Black begins to squeeze. Tighter.

**FEZZIK**

(standing, talking as  
he does so)  
I just figured out why you give  
me so much trouble.

**CUT TO:**

**FEZZIK**

as he charges toward a huge rock that lines the path, and just as he reaches it he spins his giant body so that the entire weight of the charge is taken by the Man In Black.

**CUT TO:**

**THE MAN IN BLACK**

And the power of the charge is terrible, the pain enormous, but he clings to his grip at FEZZIK's windpipe.

**MAN IN BLACK**

(his arms never leave  
Fezzik's throat)  
Why is that, do you think?

**FEZZIK**

(his voice just  
beginning to get a  
little strained)  
Well, I haven't fought just one  
person for so long. I've been  
specializing in groups. Battling  
gangs for local charities, that  
kind of thing.

**CUT TO:**

---

40.

**ANOTHER HUGE ROCK ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PATH**

Again FEZZIK charges, slower this time, but still a charge, and again he spins and creams the Man In Black against the rough boulder.

**CUT TO:**

**THE MAN IN BLACK**

And the punishment is terrible, and for a moment it seems as if he is going to let go of Fezzik's windpipe and crumble,

but he doesn't, he holds on.

**MAN IN BLACK**

Why should that make such a  
difference?

**FEZZIK**

Well ...  
(And now his voice is  
definitely growing weaker)  
... you see, you use different  
moves when you're fighting half a  
dozen people than when you only  
have to be worried about one.

Again FEZZIK slams the Man In Black against a boulder, only  
this time his power has diminished and Fezzik starts to  
slowly collapse.

**CUT TO:**

**FEZZIK**

and there isn't much breath coming.

**CUT TO:**

**THE MAN IN BLACK**

holding his grip as FEZZIK tries to stand, halfway makes it,  
but there is no air. Back to his knees he falls, holds there  
for a moment, and pitches down to all fours. The Man In  
Black increases the pressure. FEZZIK tries to crawl. But  
there is just no air. No air. FEZZIK goes to earth and lies  
still.

**CUT TO:**

**FEZZIK**

as the Man In Black turns him over, puts his ear to FEZZIK's  
heart. It beats. The Man In Black stands.

-----  
41.

**MAN IN BLACK**

I don't envy you the headache you  
will have when you awake. But, in  
the meantime, rest well ... and  
dream of large women.

And he nimbly scoops up his sword with his foot, catches it  
and as he dashes off up along the mountain path --

**CUT TO:**

**PRINCE HUMPERDINCK**

as he slips his boot into a foot print in the sand.

Count Rugen mounted, watches. Behind him, half a dozen armed WARRIORS, also mounted. A GREAT WHITE HORSE waits riderless in front. Humperdinck is all over the rocky ground, and maybe he isn't the best hunter in the world. Then again, maybe he is. Because, as he begins to put his feet into strange positions, we realize that what he is doing is miming the fencers.

**HUMPERDINCK**

There was a mighty duel -- it ranged all over. They were both masters.

**RUGEN**

Who won? How did it end?

**HUMPERDINCK**

(looking down in the position where Inigo fell unconscious)  
The loser ran off alone.  
(points in the direction Vizzini and FEZZIK took)  
The winner followed those footprints toward Guilder!

**RUGEN**

Shall we track them both?

**HUMPERDINCK**

The loser is nothing. -- Only the Princess matters --  
(to the armed warriors)  
-- clearly this was all planned by warriors of Guilder. We must be ready for whatever lies ahead.

---

42.

**RUGEN**

Could this be a trap?

**HUMPERDINCK**

(vaulting onto his horse)  
I always think everything could be a trap -- Which is why I'm still alive.

And he gallops off --

**CUT TO:**

**THE MAN IN BLACK**

cresting the peak of the mountain.

**CUT TO:**

**CLOSE-UP ON**

a knife pointed at a throat -- PULL BACK TO REVEAL Vizzini munching on an apple, holding the knife to Buttercup's throat. She is blindfolded.

A PICNIC SPREAD is laid out. A tablecloth, two goblets and between them, a small leather wine container. And some cheese and a couple of apples. The picnic is set on a lovely spot, high on the edge of a mountain path with a view all the way back to the sea.

The Man In Black comes running around the path, sees Vizzini, slows. The two men study each other. Then --

**VIZZINI**

So, it is down to you. And it is down to me.

The Man In Black nods and comes nearer --

**VIZZINI**

If you wish her dead, by all means keep moving forward.

And he pushes his long knife harder against Buttercup's unprotected throat.

**MAN IN BLACK**

Let me explain-

**VIZZINI**

-- there's nothing to explain.  
You're trying to kidnap what I've rightfully stolen.

---

43.

**MAN IN BLACK**

Perhaps an arrangement can be reached.

**VIZZINI**

There will be no arrangement --  
(deliberate)  
-- and you're killing her!

**CUT TO:**

**BUTTERCUP'S THROAT**

as Vizzini jabs with his long knife. Buttercup gasps against the pain.

**CUT TO:**

**THE MAN IN BLACK**

stopping fast.

**MAN IN BLACK**

But if there can be no arrangement, then we are at an impasse.

**VIZZINI**

I'm afraid so -- I can't compete with you physically. And you're no match for my brains.

**MAN IN BLACK**

You're that smart?

**VIZZINI**

Let me put it this way: have you ever heard of Plato, Aristotle, Socrates?

**MAN IN BLACK**

Yes.

**VIZZINI**

Morons.

**MAN IN BLACK**

Really? In that case, I challenge you to a battle of wits.

**VIZZINI**

For the Princess?

The Man In Black nods.

-----  
**44.**

**VIZZINI**

To the death?

Another nod.

**VIZZINI**

I accept.

**MAN IN BLACK**

Good. Then pour the wine.

As Vizzini fills the goblets with the dark red liquid, the Man In Black pulls a small packet from his clothing, handing it to Vizzini.

**MAN IN BLACK**

Inhale this, but do not touch.

**VIZZINI**

(doing it)  
I smell nothing.

**MAN IN BLACK**

(taking the packet back)  
What you do not smell is called iocane powder. It is odorless, tasteless, dissolves instantly in liquid, and is among the more deadlier poisons known to man.

**VIZZINI**

Hmm.

**CUT TO:**

**VIZZINI**

watching excitedly as the Man In Black takes the goblets, turns his back. A moment later, he turns again, faces Vizzini, drops the iocane packet. It is now empty.

The Man In Black rotates the goblets in a little shell game maneuver then puts one glass in front of Vizzini, the other in front of himself.

**MAN IN BLACK**

All right: where is the poison?  
The battle of wits has begun. It ends when you decide and we both drink, and find out who is right and who is dead.

---

45.

**VIZZINI**

But it's so simple. All I have to do is divine from what I know of you. Are you the sort of man who would put the poison into his own goblet, or his enemy's?

He studies the Man In Black now.

**VIZZINI**

Now, a clever man would put the poison into his own goblet,

because he would know that only a great fool would reach for what he was given. I'm not a great fool, so I can clearly not choose the wine in front of you. But you must have known I was not a great fool; you would have counted on it, so I can clearly not choose the wine in front of me.

**MAN IN BLACK**

(And now there's a trace of nervousness beginning)  
You've made your decision then?

**VIZZINI**

Not remotely. Because iocane comes from Australia, as everyone knows. And Australia is entirely peopled with criminals. And criminals are used to having people not trust them, as you are not trusted by me. So I can clearly not choose the wine in front of you.

**MAN IN BLACK**

Truly, you have a dizzying intellect.

**VIZZINI**

Wait till I get going! Where was I?

**MAN IN BLACK**

Australia.

**VIZZINI**

Yes -- Australia, and you must have suspected I would have known the powder's origin, so I can clearly not choose the wine in front of me.

---

46.

**MAN IN BLACK**

(very nervous)  
You're just stalling now.

**VIZZINI**

(cackling)  
You'd like to think that, wouldn't you?

(stares at the Man in Black)  
You've beaten my giant, which means you're exceptionally strong.

So, you could have put the poison in your own goblet, trusting on your strength to save you. So I can clearly not choose the wine in front of you. But, you've also bested my Spaniard which means you must have studied. And in studying, you must have learned that man is mortal so you would have put the poison as far from yourself as possible, so I can clearly not choose the wine in front of me.

As Vizzini's pleasure has been growing throughout, the Man In Black's has been fast disappearing.

**MAN IN BLACK**

You're trying to trick me into giving away something -- it won't work --

**VIZZINI**

(triumphant)

It has worked -- you've given everything away -- I know where the poison is.

**MAN IN BLACK**

(fool's courage)

Then make your choice.

**VIZZINI**

I will. And I choose --

And suddenly he stops, points at something behind the Man In Black.

**VIZZINI**

-- what in the world can that be?

**CUT TO:**

---

47.

**THE MAN IN BLACK**

turning around, looking.

**MAN IN BLACK**

What? Where? I don't see anything.

**CUT TO:**

**VIZZINI**

busily switching the goblets while the Man In Black has his head turned.

**VIZZINI**

Oh, well, I-I could have sworn I saw something. No matter.

The Man In Black turns to face him again. Vizzini starts to laugh.

**MAN IN BLACK**

What's so funny?

**VIZZINI**

I'll tell you in a minute. First, let's drink -- me from my glass, and you from yours.

And he picks up his goblet. The Man In Black picks up the one in front of him. As they both start to drink, Vizzini hesitates a moment.

Then, allowing the Man In Black to drink first, he swallows his wine.

**MAN IN BLACK**

You guessed wrong.

**VIZZINI**

(roaring with laughter)  
You only think I guessed wrong --  
(louder now)  
-- that's what's so funny! I switched glasses when your back was turned. You fool.

**CUT TO:**

**THE MAN IN BLACK**

There's nothing he can say. He just sits there.

**CUT TO:**

-----  
**48.**

**VIZZINI**

watching him.

**VIZZINI**

You fell victim to one of the classic blunders. The most famous is "Never get involved in a land war in Asia." But only slightly less well known is this: "Never

go in against a Sicilian when  
death is on the line."

He laughs and roars and cackles and whoops and is in all  
ways quite cheery until he falls over dead.

**CUT TO:**

**THE MAN IN BLACK**

stepping past the corpse, taking the blindfold and bindings  
off Buttercup, who notices Vizzini lying dead.

The Man In Black pulls her to her feet.

**BUTTERCUP**

Who are you?

**MAN IN BLACK**

I am no one to be trifled with,  
that is all you ever need know.

He starts to lead her off the mountain path into untraveled  
terrain.

**BUTTERCUP**

(a final glance back  
toward Vizzini)  
To think -- all that time it was  
your cup that was poisoned.

**MAN IN BLACK**

They were both poisoned. I spent  
the last few years building up an  
immunity to iocane powder.

And with that, he takes off, dragging her behind him.

**CUT TO:**

-----  
**49.**

**A MOUNTAIN PATH**

It's where FEZZIK fought the Man in Black. CAMERA PULLS BACK  
TO REVEAL the Prince, kneeling, inspecting every grain of  
misplaced sand. The others wait behind him.

**HUMPERDINCK**

Someone has beaten a giant!  
(roaring)  
There will be great suffering in  
Guilder if she dies.

He leaps onto his horse and they charge off.

CUT TO:

**A WILD STRETCH OF TERRAIN**

The Man In Black comes running into view, still dragging Buttercup, who sometimes stumbles, but he keeps forcing her along. Finally, when she is close to exhaustion, he lets go of her.

**MAN IN BLACK**

(his voice harsh now,  
carrying the promise  
of violence)  
Catch your breath.

**BUTTERCUP**

If you'll release me ... whatever  
you ask for ransom ... you'll get  
it, I promise you...

**MAN IN BLACK**

And what is that worth, the  
promise of a woman? You're very  
funny, Highness.

**BUTTERCUP**

I was giving you a chance. No  
matter where you take me ...  
there's no greater hunter than  
Prince Humperdinck. He could  
track a falcon on a cloudy day.  
He can find you

**MAN IN BLACK**

You think your dearest love will  
save you?

---

50.

**BUTTERCUP**

I never said he was my dearest  
love. And yes, he will save me.  
That I know.

**MAN IN BLACK**

You admit to me you do not love  
your fiance?

**BUTTERCUP**

He knows I do not love him.

**MAN IN BLACK**

"Are not capable of love" is what  
you mean.

**BUTTERCUP**

I have loved more deeply than a  
killer like yourself could ever  
dream.

And the Man In Black cocks back a fist. Buttercup flinches,  
but does not retreat.

**MAN IN BLACK**

That was a warning, Highness. The  
next time, my hand flies on its  
own. For where I come from, there  
are penalties when a woman lies.

**CUT TO:**

**VIZZINI'S BODY**

The picnic is spread as before.

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL the Prince kneeling by the body  
as the others ride up. The Prince grabs the empty poison  
packet, hands it to Rugen, after first sniffing it himself.

**HUMPERDINCK**

Iocane. I'd bet my life on it.  
(gestures to the trail ahead)  
And there are the Princess's  
footprints. She is alive ... or  
was, an hour ago. If she is  
otherwise when I find her, I  
shall be very put out.

And as he vaults onto his horse and the all charge off --

**CUT TO:**

-----  
51.

**BUTTERCUP**

being spun INTO CAMERA view, falling heavily as the Man In  
Black releases her. We are at the edge of an almost sheer  
ravine. The drop is sharp and severe. Below, the ravine  
floor is flat, but getting there would not be half the fun.

**MAN IN BLACK**

Rest, Highness.

**BUTTERCUP**

(stares at him)  
I know who you are -- your  
cruelty reveals everything.

The Man In Black says nothing.

**BUTTERCUP**

You're the Dread Pirate Roberts;  
admit it.

**MAN IN BLACK**

(bowing)  
With pride. What can I do for you?

**BUTTERCUP**

You can die slowly cut into a  
thousand pieces.

**MAN IN BLACK**

Hardly complimentary, Your  
Highness. Why loose your venom on  
me?

CLOSE UP - BUTTERCUP, quietly now.

**BUTTERCUP**

You killed my love.

**CUT TO:**

**THE MAN IN BLACK**

watching her closely.

**MAN IN BLACK**

It's possible; I kill a lot of  
people. Who was this love of  
yours? Another Prince, like this  
one, ugly, rich, and scabby?

---

52.

**BUTTERCUP**

No. A farm boy. Poor. Poor and  
perfect, with eyes like the sea  
after a storm.

**CUT TO:**

**BUTTERCUP**

And probably, if she did not hate Roberts so, there would be  
tears.

**BUTTERCUP**

On the high seas, your ship  
attacked, and the Dread Pirate  
Roberts never takes prisoners.

**MAN IN BLACK**

(explaining as a  
teacher might)  
I can't afford to make exceptions.

Once word leaks out that a pirate  
has gone soft, people begin to  
disobey you, and then it's  
nothing but work, work, work, all  
the time.

**BUTTERCUP**

You mock my pain!

**MAN IN BLACK**

Life is pain, Highness. Anyone  
who says differently is selling  
something. I remember this farm  
boy of yours, I think. This would  
be, what, five years ago?

Buttercup nods.

**MAN IN BLACK**

Does it bother you to hear?

**BUTTERCUP**

Nothing you can say will upset me.

**MAN IN BLACK**

He died well, that should please  
you. No bribe attempts or  
blubbering. He simply said,  
"Please. Please, I need to live."  
It was the "please" that caught  
my memory.

**(MORE)**

---

53.

**MAN IN BLACK (CONT'D)**

I asked him what was so important  
for him. "True love," he replied.  
And then he spoke of a girl of  
surpassing beauty and faithfulness.  
I can only assume he meant you.  
You should bless me for destroying  
him before he found out what you  
really are.

**BUTTERCUP**

And what am I?

**MAN IN BLACK**

Faithfulness he talked of, madam.  
Your enduring faithfulness. Now,  
tell me truly. When you found out  
he was gone, did you get engaged  
to your prince that same hour, or  
did you wait a whole week out of  
respect for the dead?

**BUTTERCUP**

You mocked me once, never do it  
again -- I died that day!

The Man In Black is about to reply as they stand there on  
the edge of the sheer ravine. But then something catches his  
attention and as he stares at it briefly,

**CUT TO:**

**HIS P.O.V.:**

The dust cloud caused by Humperdinck's HORSES is rising up  
into the sky.

**CUT TO:**

**BUTTERCUP**

and while his attention is on the dust cloud, rising high,  
she pushes him with all the strength she has.

**BUTTERCUP**

You can die too, for all I care!!

**CUT TO:**

**THE MAN IN BLACK**

teetering on the ravine edge, for a moment, then he begins  
to fall. Down goes the Man In Black.

---

**54.**

Down, down, rolling, spinning, crashing always down toward  
the flat rock floor of the ravine.

**CUT TO:**

**BUTTERCUP**

staring transfixed at what she has wrought.

There is a long pause. She stands there, alone, as from far  
below the words come to her, drifting on the wind --

**MAN IN BLACK**

... as ... you ... wish...

**BUTTERCUP**

Oh, my sweet Westley; what have I  
done?

And without a second thought or consideration of the dangers,  
she starts into the ravine. A moment later, she too is

falling, spinning and twisting, crashing and torn,  
cartwheeling down toward what is left of her beloved.

**CUT TO:**

**THE DUST CLOUD**

rising.

**PULL BACK TO REVEAL**

Prince Humperdinck and the others reining in at the spot  
where Buttercup promised ransom in exchange for her freedom.  
The Prince shakes his head.

**HUMPERDINCK**

Disappeared. He must have seen us  
closing in, which might account  
for his panicking in error.  
Unless I'm wrong, and I am never  
wrong, they are headed dead into  
the fire swamp.

**CUT TO:**

**COUNT RUGEN**

The mere mention of the Fire Swamp makes him pale.

**CUT TO:**

-----  
55.

**THE RAVINE FLOOR**

TWO BODIES lie a few feet apart, not moving. It is, of  
course, Buttercup and Westley. They might be corpses. After  
a time, Westley slowly forces his body into motion and as he  
does,

**CUT TO:**

**BUTTERCUP**

bruised and torn, as Westley crawls slowly toward her.

**WESTLEY**

Can you move at all?

**BUTTERCUP**

(weakly stretching out  
an arm toward him)  
Move? You're alive. If you want,  
I can fly.

**WESTLEY**

I told you, "I would always come for you." Why didn't you wait for me?

**BUTTERCUP**

Well ... you were dead.

**WESTLEY**

Death cannot stop true love. All it can do is delay it for a while.

**BUTTERCUP**

I will never doubt again.

**WESTLEY**

There will never be a need.

And now, they begin to kiss; it's a tender kiss, tender and loving and gentle and --

**THE KID**

(off-screen)

Oh no. No, please.

**CUT TO:**

**THE KID'S BEDROOM**

**GRANDFATHER**

What is it? What's the matter?

---

56.

**THE KID**

They're kissing again, do we have to hear the kissing part?

**GRANDFATHER**

Someday, you may not mind so much.

**THE KID**

Skip on to the Fire Swamp -- that sounded good.

**GRANDFATHER**

Oh. You're sick, I'll humor you.

(he picks up the book again)

So now, where were we here? Yeah, yeah, yeah. Ah. Oh. Okay. Westley and Buttercup raced along the ravine floor.

**CUT TO:**

**WESTLEY AND BUTTERCUP**

racing along the ravine floor. Westley glances up.

**CUT TO:**

**HUMPERDINCK AND HIS MEN**

perched on top of the cliff, looking down at Westley and Buttercup.

**CUT TO:**

**WESTLEY**

**WESTLEY**

Ha. Your pig fiance is too late.  
A few more steps and we'll be  
safe in the Fire Swamp.

**CUT TO:**

**BUTTERCUP**

and Westley has tried to say it with Chevalier-like nonchalance, but she ain't buying.

**BUTTERCUP**

We'll never survive.

**WESTLEY**

Nonsense -- you're only saying  
that because no one ever has.

---

57.

As they race off, leaving Humperdinck and his men stranded, defeated.

**CUT TO:**

**THE FIRE SWAMP**

And it really doesn't look any worse than any other moist, sulphurous, infernal horror you might run across. Great trees block the sun.

**CUT TO:**

**WESTLEY AND BUTTERCUP**

Buttercup is clearly panicked and maybe Westley is too, but he moves jauntily along, sword in hand.

**WESTLEY**

It's not that bad. I'm not saying  
I'd like to build a summer home  
here, but the trees are actually

quite lovely.

THE GIANT TREES, thick and black-green, look ominous as hell and they shield all but intermittent stripes of sun.

A GIANT SPURT OF FLAME leaps up, preceded by a slight popping sound, and this particular spurt of flame misses Westley, but Buttercup is suddenly onfire; at least the lower half of her is and --

**CUT TO:**

**WESTLEY**

instantly forcing Buttercup to sit, gathering her flaming hem in his hands, doing his best to suffocate the fire. This isn't all that easy and it causes him a bit of grief, but he does his best to sound as jaunty as before.

**WESTLEY**

Well now, that was an adventure.

He examines where the flames burst over her.

**WESTLEY**

Singed a bit, were you?

**BUTTERCUP**

(She wasn't and she  
shakes her head "no")

You?

---

**58.**

He was, and he shakes his head "no." As he pulls her to her feet --

**CUT TO:**

**THE SWAMP FLOOR**

-- and as there's another popping sound,

**CUT TO:**

**WESTLEY GRABBING BUTTERCUP**

pulling her aside to safety as another great spun of flame suddenly shoots up.

**WESTLEY**

Well, one thing I will say. The  
Fire Swamp certainly does keep  
you on your toes.

Buttercup is frozen with fear. He takes her hand, gently

leads her forward as we-

**CUT TO:**

**THE TWO OF THEM**

moving slowly along through a particularly dangerous part of the Fire Swamp.

It's later now, the sun slants down at a slightly different angle.

**WESTLEY**

(happily)

This will all soon be but a happy memory because Roberts' ship "Revenge" is anchored at the far end. And I, as you know, am Roberts.

**BUTTERCUP**

But how is that possible, since he's been marauding twenty years and you only left me five years ago?

**WESTLEY**

I myself am often surprised at life's little quirks.

---

59.

There is again a popping sound, then a huge spurt of flame. Westley simply picks up Buttercup as they walk along, moves her out of danger, puts her back down, goes right on talking without missing a beat.

**WESTLEY**

You see, what I told you before about saying "please" was true. It intrigued Roberts, as did my descriptions of your beauty.

**CUT TO:**

**SOME HIDEOUS VINES --**

they look like they could be flesh eating. Westley takes his sword, slices a path for them to follow. The vines groan as they fall. He's been chatting away the entire time.

**WESTLEY**

Finally, Roberts decided something. He said, "All right, Westley, I've never had a valet. You can try it for tonight. I'll most

likely kill you in the morning." Three years he said that. "Good night, Westley. Good work. Sleep well. I'll most likely kill you in the morning." It was a fine time for me. I was learning to fence, to fight, anything anyone would teach me. And Roberts and I eventually became friends. And then it happened.

**BUTTERCUP**

What? -- go on --

Westley picks her up, carrying her across some swamp water that is bridged by a narrow, rickety tree branch.

**WESTLEY**

Well, Roberts had grown so rich, he wanted to retire. So he took me to his cabin and told me his secret. "I am not the Dread Pirate Roberts," he said. "My name is Ryan. I inherited this ship from the previous Dread Pirate Roberts, just as you will inherit it from me. The man I inherited it from was not the real Dread Pirate Roberts, either.

**(MORE)**

---

60.

**WESTLEY (CONT'D)**

His name was Cumberbund. The real Roberts has been retired fifteen years and living like a king in Patagonia." Then he explained the name was the important thing for inspiring the necessary fear. You see, no one would surrender to the Dread Pirate Westley.

The two of them have by now crossed the pond.

**WESTLEY**

So we sailed ashore, took on an entirely new crew and he stayed aboard for awhile as first mate, all the time calling me Roberts. Once the crew believed, he left the ship and I have been Roberts ever since. Except, now that we're together, I shall retire and hand the name over to someone else. Is everything clear to you?

Buttercup, perplexed, is about to reply but the ground she steps on gives way -- it's Lightning Sand -- a great patch of it, and it has her -- a cloud of powder rises and she sinks into the stuff crying Westley's name but then she is gone as we --

**CUT TO:**

**WESTLEY WHIRLING**

slashing at a U-shaped vine, hacks it in half -- it's still connected to the tree. Then he grabs it, drops his sword, and, clutching the other end of the vine, he dives into the lightning sand and there is another cloud of white powder, but it settles quickly.

Now nothing can be seen. Nothing at all. Just the lightning sand, lovely and lethal.

**HOLD ON THE LIGHTNING SAND -- THEN --**

An odd panting sound is heard now. The panting sound is suddenly very loud. And then a giant R.O.U.S. darts into view. The R.O.U.S. -- a Rodent of Unusual Size -- is probably no more than eighty pounds of bone and power. It sniffs around a bit then, as quickly as it has come, it goes.

**CUT TO:**

-----  
61.

**THE LIGHTNING SAND**

as Westley, lungs long past the bursting point, explodes out; he has Buttercup across his shoulders and as he pulls to the edge of the lightning sand pit, using the vine --

**CUT TO:**

**CLOSE-UP - BUTTERCUP**

Her face is caked with the white powder. It is in her eyes, her ears, hair, mouth. She's still probably beautiful, but you have to look awfully hard to see it. As Westley continues to pull them to safety --

**CUT TO:**

**THE R.O.U.S.**

high above them; it watches --

**CUT TO:**

**BUTTERCUP**

placed against a tree. Westley is cleaning the lightning sand from her face. He hesitates, glances around and

**CUT TO:**

**THE R.O.U.S.**

on a much lower branch now. It stares down at Westley.

Westley stares back up at the beast. Buttercup is oblivious. Her eyes flutter. He continues to work on her as --

**BUTTERCUP**

We'll never succeed -- we may as well die here.

**WESTLEY**

No. No. We have already succeeded.

He glances back again. Now THERE ARE TWO R.O.U.S.'s. The have climbed into a nearby tree, stare hungrily down.

**CUT TO:**

WESTLEY, picking her up.

He puts an arm around her, starts to walk with her as he encouragingly goes on talking.

-----  
62.

**WESTLEY**

I mean, what are the three terrors of the Fire Swamp? One, the flame spurts. No problem. There's a popping sound preceding each, we can avoid that. Two, the Lightning Sand. But you were clever enough to discover what that looks like, so in the future we can avoid that too.

**BUTTERCUP**

Westley, what about the R.O.U.S.'s?

**WESTLEY**

Rodents of Unusual Size? I don't think they exist...

And as he says that, a R.O.U.S. comes flying at him from offscreen.

**CUT TO:**

**BUTTERCUP**

screaming and --

Westley, pinned under the attacking R.O.U.S., trying to fend it off. Can't. The thing's teeth sink deep into his arm. He howls.

Westley drives a fist into the beast's face, rolling it off. He reaches for his sword just a few feet away, but the R.O.U.S. is back atop him. It's a fierce battle, and just when we think Westley can't possibly win, he flips the ugly rodent clear.

Westley scrambles for his sword. The R.O.U.S. stampedes on, changing its target, heading right for --

Buttercup, and she's scared to death and --

**BUTTERCUP**

Westley!

Westley abandons his sword, reaching for the rodent, grabbing only a tail, wrestling with it. Buttercup grabs a small branch, and using it as a club, beats the skull of the thing, doing pretty well, but the beast manages to snag her hem with its razor teeth, and she's pulled to the ground, and

**CUT TO:**

---

63.

**WESTLEY**

jumping onto its back, and the R.O.U.S. is all over him now, sinking needle teeth into Westley's shoulder.

**CUT TO:**

**WESTLEY**

with death close at hand, as a popping sound starts. He tries one desperate move, rolls into the sound --

**CUT TO:**

**A FLAME SPURT**

shooting skyward and --

**CUT TO:**

**WESTLEY**

with the R.O.U.S. pinned under him, and as the beast bursts into flame, it lets go and Westley rolls safely free, grabs his sword and exhaustedly stabs the R.O.U.S., which is

trying to put itself out.

The R.O.U.S. collapses dead. Westley stands motionless, exhausted. The danger has passed.

**CUT TO:**

**BUTTERCUP**

relieved.

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**THE FAR EDGE OF THE FIRE SWAMP**

Beyond, a beach.

**CUT TO:**

**BUTTERCUP AND WESTLEY**

**BUTTERCUP**

(almost in disbelief)

We did it.

**WESTLEY**

Now, was that so terrible?

---

**64.**

And from somewhere they summon strength, pick up their pace, and as they reach the edge of the Fire Swamp --

**CUT TO:**

**SOMETHING WE HADN'T EXPECTED:**

Humperdinck on his horse, Rugen beside him. THREE WARRIORS, armed and ready, are mounted in formation behind. Buttercup and Westley are at the edge of the Fire Swamp, about to leave it. They stop. Buttercup looks beyond exhaustion. Westley looks worse.

**HUMPERDINCK**

Surrender!

It's dusk. Behind Humperdinck are the waters of the bay.

**CUT TO:**

**WESTLEY AND BUTTERCUP**

staring out at the others.

**WESTLEY**

You mean you wish to surrender to

me? Very well, I accept.

**HUMPERDINCK**

I give you full marks for  
bravery --don't make yourself a  
fool.

**WESTLEY**

Ah, but how will you capture us?  
We know the secrets of the Fire  
Swamp. We can live there quite  
happily for some time. So,  
whenever you feel like dying,  
feel free to visit.

**HUMPERDINCK**

I tell you once again -- surrender!

**WESTLEY**

It will not happen!

**CUT TO:**

**BUTTERCUP**

looking from one to the other; then something else catches  
her eye and we --

**CUT TO:**

-----  
65.

**AN ARMED WARRIOR**

in shadow, with a loaded crossbow aimed at Westley's heart.

**CUT TO:**

**BUTTERCUP**

looking the other way --

**CUT TO:**

**ANOTHER WARRIOR**

crossbow aimed at Westley.

**HUMPERDINCK**

(roaring)  
For the last time -- SURRENDER!

**WESTLEY**

(roaring right back, bigger)  
**DEATH FIRST!!**

CUT TO:

**BUTTERCUP**

frantically staring around, and now

CUT TO:

**A THIRD WARRIOR**

crossbow stretched, ready to shoot; this one is hidden in a tree blocking any escape Westley might try.

**BUTTERCUP**

Will you promise not to hurt him?

CUT TO:

**HUMPERDINCK**

whirling to face her.

**HUMPERDINCK**

What was that?

CUT TO:

**WESTLEY**

whirling to face her.

---

66.

**WESTLEY**

What was that?

CUT TO:

**BUTTERCUP**

talking to them both.

**BUTTERCUP**

If we surrender, and I return with you, will you promise not to hurt this man?

**HUMPERDINCK**

May I live a thousand years and never hunt again.

**BUTTERCUP**

(looks at Westley)  
He is a sailor on the pirate ship "Revenge." Promise to return him to his ship.

**HUMPERDINCK**

I swear it will be done.

**CUT TO:**

**BUTTERCUP AND WESTLEY**

staring deep into each other's eyes.

**CUT TO:**

**HUMPERDINCK AND RUGEN**

**HUMPERDINCK**

(whispering)

Once we're out of sight, take him  
back to Florin and throw him in  
the Pit of Despair.

**RUGEN**

(almost a smile)

I swear it will be done.

**CUT TO:**

**BUTTERCUP AND WESTLEY**

**BUTTERCUP**

I thought you were dead once, and  
it almost destroyed me. I could  
not bear it if you died again,  
not when I could save you.

---

67.

Westley is dazed. Silent.

Buttercup tries to speak again, can't, and is swooped off  
her feet onto Humperdinck's horse, and off they go.

**CUT TO:**

**WESTLEY**

staring after her. Rugen watches as his warriors bring  
Westley to him. The Count has a heavy sword and he holds it  
in his hand.

**RUGEN**

Come, sir. We must get you to  
your ship.

**WESTLEY**

We are men of action. Lies do not  
become us.

**RUGEN**

Well spoken, sir --

Westley is looking at him.

**RUGEN**

-- what is it?

**WESTLEY**

You have six fingers on your  
right hand -- someone was looking  
for you --

Count Rugen clubs Westley hard across the skull. Westley  
starts to fall --the screen goes black.

**FADE IN ON:**

**THE PIT OF DESPAIR**

Dank and chill, underground and windowless, lit by flickering  
torches. Frightening. Westley lies in the center of the  
cage, chained and helpless.

**CUT TO:**

**SOMETHING REALLY FRIGHTENING: A BLOODLESS-LOOKING ALBINO**

Dead pale, he silently enters the pit, carrying a tray of  
food and medication. He puts it down.

**WESTLEY**

Where am I?

-----  
68.

**ALBINO**

(he only whispers)  
The Pit of Despair.

He begins tending Westley's wounds. Westley winces.

**ALBINO**

(garbled)  
Don't even think --  
(A hack, sputter,  
cough - now his voice  
seems normal again)  
-- don't even think about trying  
to escape. The chains are far too  
thick. And don't dream of being  
rescued either. The only way in  
is secret. And only the Prince,  
the Count, and I know how to get  
in and out.

**WESTLEY**

Then I'm here till I die?

**ALBINO**

(working away)

Till they kill you. Yeah.

**WESTLEY**

Then why bother curing me?

**ALBINO**

The Prince and the Count always insist on everyone being healthy before they're broken.

**WESTLEY**

So it's to be torture.

The albino nods.

**WESTLEY**

I can cope with torture.

The albino shakes his head.

**WESTLEY**

You don't believe me?

**ALBINO**

You survived the Fire Swamp. You must be very brave...

(little pause)

... but nobody withstands The Machine.

---

69.

He studies Westley, whose face is almost sad.

**CUT TO:**

**BUTTERCUP**

and her face is sad. Pallid, perhaps ill. She wanders down a corridor in Florin Castle. As she moves unseeing past an intersecting corridor:

**CUT TO:**

**PRINCE HUMPERDINCK AND COUNT RUGEN**

watching her.

**HUMPERDINCK**

She's been like that ever since

the Fire Swamp.  
    (looks at Rugen)  
It's my father's failing health  
that's upsetting her.

**RUGEN**  
    (unbelieving)  
Of course.

As they move on--

**CUT TO:**

**FLORIN CASTLE - NIGHT**

CAMERA HOLDS ON IT while we hear the Grandfather's voice  
reading.

**GRANDFATHER**  
    (off-screen)  
The King died that very night,  
and before the following dawn,  
Buttercup and Humperdinck were  
married.

**CUT TO:**

**MAIN SQUARE OF FLORIN CASTLE**

And if we thought it was packed before, we didn't know how  
many more could fit in this courtyard. Humperdinck, Rugen  
and the Queen stand high on the balcony.

-----  
70.

**GRANDFATHER**  
    (off-screen)  
And at noon, she met her subjects  
again. This time as their Queen.

**HUMPERDINCK**  
My father's final words were...

**THE KID**  
    (off-screen)  
-- hold it. Hold it, Grandpa.

And the scene FREEZES, Humperdinck caught in mid-sentence.

**CUT TO:**

**THE KID'S ROOM**

The Kid is half sitting now, not strong yet, but clearly  
stronger than when we first saw him.

**THE KID**

You read that wrong. She doesn't marry Humperdinck, she marries Westley. I'm just sure of it. After all that Westley did for her, if she does not marry him, it wouldn't be fair.

**GRANDFATHER**

Well, who says life is fair? Where is that written? Life isn't always fair.

**THE KID**

I'm telling you you're messing up the story, now get it right!

**GRANDFATHER**

Do you want me to go on with this?

**THE KID**

Yes.

**GRANDFATHER**

All right, then. No more interruptions.  
(starts to read again)  
... at noon, she met her subjects again. This time as their Queen.

And on these words--

**CUT TO:**

---

71.

**PRINCE HUMPERDINCK**

**HUMPERDINCK**

My father's final words were "love her as I loved her, and there will be joy." I present to you your Queen. Queen Buttercup.

And on his words--

**CUT TO:**

**THE CROWD**

and it's gigantic.

**CUT TO:**

**THE ARCHWAY**

we saw before, as Buttercup emerges.

**CUT TO:**

**THE CROWD**

suddenly going to its knees, wave after wave of silent KNEELING PEOPLE. All of them down.

**CUT TO:**

**BUTTERCUP**

touched as before, but then she seems stunned as we

**CUT TO:**

**THE CROWD**

SOMEONE IS BOOING! The BOOING gets louder as an ANCIENT WOMAN approaches Buttercup through the crowd, BOOING every step of the way.

**BUTTERCUP**

Why do you do this?

**ANCIENT BOOER**

Because you had love in your hands, and you gave it up.

**BUTTERCUP**

(distraught)

But they would have killed Westley if I hadn't done it.

---

72.

**ANCIENT BOOER**

Your true love lives and you marry another --  
(to the crowd)  
-- True love saved her in the Fire Swamp, and she treated it like garbage. And that's what she is, the Queen of Refuse! So, bow down to her if you want. Bow to her. Bow to the Queen of Slime, the Queen of Filth, the Queen of Putrescence. Boo! Boo! Rubbish! Filth! Slime! Muck! Boo! Boo!

She advances on Buttercup now, who is more and more panicked.

**CLOSE-UP - THE ANCIENT BOOER**

Louder and louder and LOUDER she shrieks vituperation at

Buttercup, reaching out her old hands toward Buttercup's throat, and Buttercup is as frightened now as Dorothy was when the Witch went after her in "The Wizard of Oz", and suddenly,

**CUT TO:**

**BUTTERCUP**

coming out of her nightmare, alone in her castle bedroom. As she frantically grabs a robe and starts to run.

**GRANDFATHER**

(off-screen, still reading)  
It was ten days till the wedding.  
The King still lived, but  
Buttercup's nightmares were  
growing steadily worse.

**THE KID**

(off-screen)  
See? Didn't I tell you she'd  
never marry that rotten  
Humperdinck?

**GRANDFATHER**

(off-screen)  
-- yes, you're very smart. Shut-Up.

**CUT TO:**

**BUTTERCUP**

bursting into the Prince's chambers. Count Rugen stands nearby.

-----  
73.

**BUTTERCUP**

It comes to this: I love Westley.  
I always have. I know now I  
always will. If you tell me I  
must marry you in ten days,  
please believe I will be dead by  
morning.

**CUT TO:**

**PRINCE HUMPERDINCK**

Just stunned. Finally, softly, he begins to talk.

**HUMPERDINCK**

I could never cause you grief;  
consider our wedding off.  
(to Rugen)

You returned this Westley to his ship?

**RUGEN**

Yes.

**HUMPERDINCK**

Then we will simply alert him.

(to Buttercup now)

Beloved, are you certain he still wants you? After all, it was you who did the leaving in the Fire Swamp. Not to mention that pirates are not known to be men of their words.

**BUTTERCUP**

My Westley will always come for me.

**HUMPERDINCK**

I suggest a deal. You write four copies of a letter. I'll send my four fastest ships. One in each direction. The Dread Pirate Roberts is always close to Florin this time of year. We'll run up the white flag and deliver your message. If Westley wants you, bless you both. If not ... please consider me as an alternative to suicide. Are we agreed?

And she nods --

**CUT TO:**

-----  
74.

**A VERY THICK GROVE OF TREES**

The trees are unusual in one respect: all of them are extraordinarily heavily knotted.

**PULL BACK TO REVEAL**

Humperdinck and Rugen, walking into the grove of trees.

**RUGEN**

Your Princess is really a winning creature. A trifle simple, perhaps, but her appeal is undeniable.

**HUMPERDINCK**

Oh, I know. The people are quite taken with her. It's odd, but

when I hired Vizzini to have her murdered on our engagement day, I thought that was clever. But it's going to be so much more moving when I strangle her on our wedding night. Once Guildler is blamed, the nation will be truly outraged. They'll demand we go to war.

They are deeper into the grove now. Rugen is searching around.

**RUGEN**

Now, where is that secret knot?  
It's impossible to find.  
(Finding the knot on  
the tree he hits it,  
and it opens, revealing  
a staircase leading underground.)  
Are you coming down into the Pit?  
Westley's got his strength back.  
I am starting him on The Machine  
tonight.

**HUMPERDINCK**

Tyrone, you know how much I love watching you work. But, I've got my country's five hundredth anniversary to plan, my wedding to arrange, My wife to murder, and Guildler to frame for it. I'm swamped.

---

75.

**RUGEN**

Get some rest -- if you haven't got your health, you haven't got anything.

Rugen smiles and hurries down the stairs as the tree slides back perfectly into place.

**CUT TO:**

**AN ENORMOUS THING**

We can't tell quite what it is or what it does, but somehow it is unsettling.

**PULL BACK TO REVEAL**

Count Rugen, dragging Westley up alongside the thing -- Levers and wheels and wires, you name it, it's there.

**RUGEN**

Beautiful, isn't it?

The Albino starts attaching suction cups to Westley.

**RUGEN**

It took me half a lifetime to invent it. I'm sure you've discovered my deep and abiding interest in pain. At present I'm writing the definitive work on the subject. So I want you to be totally honest with me on how The Machine makes you feel.

**CUT TO:**

**A DIAL**

with numbers ranging from a low of "1" to a high of "50."  
Rugen goes to it.

**RUGEN**

This being our first try, I'll use the lowest setting.

And he turns the dial to "1".

**CUT TO:**

---

76.

**WESTLEY**

He has suction cups on his head now, on his temple, on his heart, his hands and feet. He says nothing, keeps control of himself

**CUT TO:**

**COUNT RUGEN**

fiddling with his Machine a moment more. And then he opens the flood gate, water pours down the chute, turning the wheel, which in turn really gets The Machine going.

**CUT TO:**

**WESTLEY**

and he's lying on the table, and he's only flesh and the chains are metal and thick, but such is his desperation it almost seems he might break them. A terrible sound comes from his throat, an incessant gasping. It keeps on coming as we finally

**CUT TO:**

**COUNT RUGEN**

He switches off The Machine, picks up a large notebook and pen, sits in a chair. The NOISE of The Machine subsides. Rugen opens the book to a blank page.

**RUGEN**

As you know, the concept of the suction pump is centuries old. Well, really, that's all this is. Except that instead of sucking water, I'm sucking life. I've just sucked one year of your life away. I might one day go as high as five, but I really don't know what that would do to you. So, let's just start with what we have. What did this do to you? Tell me. And remember, this is for posterity, so be honest -- how do you feel?

**AND NOW, AT LAST:**

**CUT TO:**

-----  
77.

**WESTLEY**

in anguish so deep it is dizzying. Helpless, he cries.  
Count Rugen watches the tears, then starts to write.

**RUGEN**

Interesting.

**CUT TO:**

**HUMPERDINCK**

in his quarters, swamped. Piles of papers are strewn all over. Now YELLIN, a pale, shifty, quick-eyed man appears in the doorway.

**HUMPERDINCK**

Yellin.

**YELLIN**

(bows, then kneels)  
Sire.

**HUMPERDINCK**

As Chief Enforcer of all Florin,  
I trust you with this secret:

killers from Guilder are  
infiltrating the Thieves' Forest  
and plan to murder my bride on  
our wedding night.

**YELLIN**

My spy network has heard no such  
news.

**CUT TO:**

**BUTTERCUP**

entering.

**BUTTERCUP**

Any word from Westley?

**CUT TO:**

**THE PRINCE AND YELLIN**

turning to her in the doorway.

**HUMPERDINCK**

Too soon, my angel. Patience.

-----  
78.

**BUTTERCUP**

He will come for me.

**HUMPERDINCK**

Of course.

As she glides out--

**HUMPERDINCK**

She will not be murdered. On the  
day of the wedding, I want the  
Thieves' Forest emptied and every  
inhabitant arrested.

**YELLIN**

Many of the thieves will resist.  
My regular enforcers will be  
inadequate.

**HUMPERDINCK**

Form a Brute Squad then. I want  
the Thieves' Forest emptied  
before I wed.

**YELLIN**

It won't be easy, Sire.

**HUMPERDINCK**

(alone, exhausted)  
Try ruling the world sometime.

**CUT TO:**

**THE THIEVES' FOREST - DAY**

A lot of hollering is going on. The THIEVES are being rounded up by the BRUTE SQUAD, a large group of large men. Yellin stands on a wagon in the midst of all the scuffling.

**GRANDFATHER**

(off-screen)  
The day of the wedding arrived. The Brute Squad had their hands full carrying out Humperdinck's orders.

**YELLIN**

(to an unpleasantlooking assistant)  
Is everybody out?

**ASSISTANT BRUTE**

Almost. There's a Spaniard giving us some trouble.

---

79.

**YELLIN**

Well, you give him some trouble. Move!

And his wagon starts, and as it does,

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

drunk as a skunk, sprawled in front of a hovel, a bottle of brandy in one hand, the six-fingered sword in the other. He looks dreadful. Unshaven, puffy-eyed, gaunt. But the way he brandishes the great sword in front of him would give anyone cause for worry.

**INIGO**

I am waiting for you, Vizzini. You told me to go back to the beginning. So I have. This is where I am, and this is where I'll stay. I will not be moved.

He takes a long pull from his brandy bottle. He stops as the Assistant Brute comes into view.

**ASSISTANT BRUTE**

Ho there.

**INIGO**

I do not budge. Keep your "Ho there."

He waves his sword dangerously.

**ASSISTANT BRUTE**

But the Prince gave orders --

**INIGO**

-- So did Vizzini -- when a job went wrong, you went back to the beginning. And this is where we got the job. So it's the beginning, and I'm staying till Vizzini comes.

**ASSISTANT BRUTE**

(gesturing off-screen)  
You! Brute! Come here.

**INIGO**

-- I -- am -- waiting -- for -- Vizzini --

---

80.

**VOICE**

(off-screen)  
You surely are a meanie.

INIGO feels a hand on his back. A huge hand. He compares it to his own smaller hand.

**FEZZIK**

Hello.

**INIGO**

It's you.

**FEZZIK**

True!

And as the Assistant Brute is just about to club Inigo's brains out, FEZZIK lets fly with a stupendous punch.

The Assistant Brute takes the full force of the blow right in the chops. It's like he was shot from a cannon as he careens backwards out of sight across the street.

There is a pause. Then a crunching sound, as he clearly has come in contact with something hard and immobile.

FEZZIK puts Inigo down.

**FEZZIK**

You don't look so good.  
(after Inigo blasts  
air in protest)  
You don't smell so good either.

**INIGO**

Perhaps not. I feel fine.

**FEZZIK**

Yeah?

And so FEZZIK puts Inigo down. That's when Inigo faints, and as he does,

**CUT TO:**

**AN EMPTY ALEHOUSE IN THE THIEVES' QUARTER**

Inigo sits slumped in a chair, while FEZZIK spoons him some stew.

-----  
81.

**GRANDFATHER**

(off-screen)  
FEZZIK and Inigo were reunited.  
And as FEZZIK nursed his  
inebriated friend back to health,  
he told Inigo of Vizzini's death  
and the existence of Count Rugen,  
the sixfingered man. Considering  
Inigo's lifelong search, he  
handled the news surprisingly well.

And he faints again into his stew.

**CUT TO:**

**TWO LARGE TUBS**

one filled with steaming water, the other with water clearly of an icy nature. Without a word FEZZIK stuffs Inigo's head into the icy water, then, after a reasonable amount of time, pulls him out, ducks him into the steaming stuff, and, a short time after that, puts him back in the cold again, then back in the hot --

**GRANDFATHER**

(off-screen)  
Fezzik took great care in reviving  
Inigo.

**INIGO**

(up and going)  
That's enough. That's enough!  
Where is this Rugen so I may kill  
him?

**FEZZIK**

He's with the Prince in the  
Castle. But the castle gate is  
guarded by thirty men.

**INIGO**

How many could you handle?

**FEZZIK**

I don't think more than ten.

**INIGO**

(doing the math on his fingers)  
That leaves twenty for me. At my  
best, I could never defeat that  
many.

(he sinks sadly down)  
I need Vizzini to plan. I have no  
gift for strategy.

---

82.

**FEZZIK**

But Vizzini's dead.

**CUT TO:**

**THE TWO OF THEM**

Silent and bereft. Then a wild look hits Inigo.

**INIGO**

No -- not Vizzini -- I need the  
Man in Black --

**FEZZIK**

-- what? --

**INIGO**

-- look, he bested you with  
strength, your greatness. He  
bested me with steel. He must  
have outthought Vizzini, and a  
man who can do that can plan my  
castle's onslaught any day. Let's  
go --

**FEZZIK**

-- where?

**INIGO**

To find the Man in Black,  
obviously.

**FEZZIK**

But you don't know where he is.

**INIGO**

(he is possessed by  
demons now)

Don't bother me with trifles;  
after twenty years, at last, my  
father's soul will be at peace.

**CUT TO:**

**CLOSE UP - INIGO**

**INIGO**

(big)

There will be blood tonight!!

**CUT TO:**

---

83.

**PRINCE HUMPERDINCK'S CHAMBERS**

-- strewn with maps, etc. Yellin enters, and kneels.

**HUMPERDINCK**

(sharpening his dagger)  
Rise and report.

**YELLIN**

The Thieves' Forest is emptied.  
Thirty men guard the castle gate.

**HUMPERDINCK**

Double it. My Princess must be  
safe.

**YELLIN**

The gate has but one key, and I  
carry that.

He shows the key, dangling from a chain around his neck.  
Just at that moment, Buttercup enters.

**HUMPERDINCK**

Ah! My dulcet darling. Tonight we  
marry. Tomorrow morning, your men  
will escort us to Florin Channel  
where every ship in my armada  
waits to accompany us on our  
honeymoon.

**BUTTERCUP**

Every ship but your four fastest,  
you mean.

The Prince looks at her blankly for a moment.

**BUTTERCUP**

Every ship but the four you sent.

**HUMPERDINCK**

Yes. Yes, of course. Naturally,  
not those four.

**YELLIN**

(bows, exits)  
Your Majesties.

**CUT TO:**

**BUTTERCUP**

staring at Humperdinck.

---

**84.**

**BUTTERCUP**

You never sent the ships. Don't  
bother lying. It doesn't matter.  
Westley will come for me anyway.

**HUMPERDINCK**

(sharply)  
You're a silly girl.

**BUTTERCUP**

Yes, I am a silly girl, for not  
having seen sooner that you were  
nothing but a coward with a heart  
full of fear.

**HUMPERDINCK**

(close to erupting;  
speaks very distinctly)  
I-would-not-say-such things-if-  
I-were-you-

**BUTTERCUP**

Why not? You can't hurt me.  
Westley and I are joined by the  
bonds of love. And you cannot  
track that. Not with a thousand  
bloodhounds. And you cannot break  
it. Not with a thousand swords.  
And when I say you are a coward,  
that is only because you are the  
slimiest weakling ever to crawl

the earth.

**CUT TO:**

**HUMPERDINCK**

jumping at her, yanking her by the hair, starting to pull her along, out of control, his words indistinct.

**HUMPERDINCK**  
**IWOULDNOTSAYSUCHTHINGSIFIWEREYOU!**

**CUT TO:**

**A CORRIDOR OF THE CASTLE**

as the Prince throws open the door to Buttercup's room, slams it shut, locks it, breaks into a wild run and --

**CUT TO:**

-----  
85.

**WESTLEY IN THE MACHINE**

but it's not on. Count Rugen is adding more notes to his book. He looks up as the Prince suddenly comes down the steps, raging.

**HUMPERDINCK**  
(at Westley)  
You truly love each other, and so you might have been truly happy. Not one couple in a century has that chance, no matter what the storybooks say. And so I think no man in a century will suffer as greatly as you will.

And with that he whirls, turns on The Machine, grabs the lever and --

**CUT TO:**

**COUNT RUGEN**

calling out --

**RUGEN**  
Not to fifty!!!

But it's too late as we --

**CUT TO:**

**PRINCE HUMPERDINCK**

shoving the lever all the way up and

**CUT TO:**

**WESTLEY'S FACE**

And there has never been such pain. The pain grows and grows and with it now, something else has started

THE DEATH SCREAM. As The Death Scream starts to rise --

**CUT TO:**

**OUTSIDE THE PIT OF DESPAIR**

as the SOUND moves along, LOUDER AND LOUDER, and --

**CUT TO:**

-----  
86.

**YELLIN AND HIS SIXTY BRUTES**

and they bear it, and a few of the Brutes turn to each other in fear, and as the scream builds --

**CUT TO:**

**BUTTERCUP IN HER ROOM**

and she hears the SOUND, doesn't know what it is, but her arms involuntarily go around her body to try to control the trembling, and the scream, still builds and --

**CUT TO:**

**ESTABLISHING SHOT ACROSS THE RIVER**

There are many PEOPLE --it is the day of the country's 500th Anniversary -- but all the People stop as the sound hits them. A few CHILDREN pale, bolt toward their PARENTS and --

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO AND FEZZIK**

trying to make their way through the jammed marketplace, which suddenly quiets as the fading sound comes through.

**INIGO**  
(instantly)

FEZZIK, FEZZIK, listen, do you hear? -- That is the sound of ultimate suffering. My heart made that sound when Rugen

slaughtered my father. The Man in Black makes it now.

**FEZZIK**

The Man in Black?

**INIGO**

His true love is marrying another  
tonight, so who else has cause  
for Ultimate Suffering?  
(trying to push through)  
Excuse me --

It's too crowded.

**INIGO**

-- pardon me, it's important --

No one budes and the sound is fading faster.

-----  
87.

**INIGO**

-- Fezzik, please --

**FEZZIK**

(gigantic and roaring)  
Everybody ... MOVE!!

And the Crowd begins to fall away, and he and Inigo start to  
track the FADING SOUND.

**INIGO**

Thank you.

**CUT TO:**

**A GROVE OF TREES NEAR THE PIT OF DESPAIR**

The Albino appears wheeling a barrow. Inigo's sword pushes  
at his chest.

**INIGO**

Where is the Man in Black?

The Albino shakes his head, says nothing.

**INIGO**

You get there from this grove, yes?

Silence.

**INIGO**

Fezzik, jog his memory.

And Fezzik crunches the Albino on the top of the head as if  
he had a hammer and was driving in a nail. The Albino drops

without a sound.

**FEZZIK**

(upset)

I'm sorry, Inigo. I didn't mean  
to jog him so hard. Inigo?

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

He kneels, the sword held tight between his hands. Eyes closed, he faces the grove of trees, starts to talk, his voice low and strange.

---

**88.**

**INIGO**

Father, I have failed you for  
twenty years. Now our misery can  
end. Somewhere ... somewhere  
close by is a man who can help us.  
I cannot find him alone. I need  
you. I need you to guide my sword.  
Please.

And now he rises, eyes still closed.

**INIGO**

Guide my sword.

**CUT TO:**

**THE GROVE OF TREES**

as Inigo, eyes shut tight, walks forward, the great sword held in his hands.

Fezzik, frightened, follows close behind.

**CUT TO:**

**THE SECRET KNOT**

that reveals the staircase.

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

walking blind through the grove of trees. He moves to the Secret Knot, hesitates, then moves past it.

Then Inigo stops. For a long moment he stands frozen. Suddenly he whirls, eyes still closed, and the sword strikes home dead center into a knot and --

Nothing. He has failed.

In utter despair he collapses against the tree. Against a knot in the tree. Against THE KNOT in the tree. It slides away, revealing the staircase. FEZZIK and Inigo look at each other, then start down.

**CUT TO:**

**WESTLEY**

dead by The Machine. FEZZIK leans over him, listening for a heartbeat. Then he looks at Inigo, shakes his head.

---

**89.**

**FEZZIK**

He's dead.

Inigo is in despair. For a moment, he just sags.

**INIGO**

(barely able to speak)  
It just is not fair.

**THE KID**

(off-screen)  
-- Grandpa, Grandpa -- wait --

**CUT TO:**

**THE KID'S ROOM**

He is terribly excited and looks stronger than we've yet seen him.

**THE KID**

-- wait -- what did FEZZIK mean,  
"He's dead?" I mean he didn't  
mean dead.

The Grandfather says nothing, just sits there.

**THE KID**

Westley's only faking, right?

**GRANDFATHER**

You want me to read this or not?

**CUT TO:**

**THE KID: CLOSE UP**

**THE KID**

Who gets Humperdinck?

**GRANDFATHER**

I don't understand.

**THE KID**

Who kills Prince Humperdinck? At the end, somebody's got to do it. Is it Inigo? Who?

**GRANDFATHER**

Nobody. Nobody kills him. He lives.

---

90.

**THE KID**

You mean he wins? Jesus, Grandpa! What did you read me this thing for?

And he desperately fights for control.

**GRANDFATHER**

You know, you've been very sick and you're taking this story very seriously. I think we better stop now.

He closes the book and starts to get up.

**THE KID**

(shaking his head)  
No! I'm okay. I'm okay.  
(gestures toward the chair)  
-- sit down. All right?

**GRANDFATHER**

Okay.  
(sitting and opening the book again)  
All right, now, let's see. Where were we? Oh yes. In the Pit of Despair.

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO, IN DESPAIR**

We're back in the Pit, the same shot as before. For a moment, he just sags.

**INIGO**

Well, we Montoyas have never taken defeat easily. Come along, Fezzik. Bring the body.

**FEZZIK**

The body?

**INIGO**

(not stopping)  
Have you any money?

**FEZZIK**

I have a little.

**INIGO**

I just hope it's enough to buy a  
miracle, that's all.

---

91.

As Fezzik takes the corpse, follows Inigo up the stairs --

**CUT TO:**

**A HOVEL - DUSK**

Inigo, FEZZIK, Westley approach the door. They knock. From inside the hovel a little man's voice is heard. If Mel Brooks' Year Old Man was really old, he'd resemble this guy.

**LITTLE OLD GUY**

(off-screen)  
Go away!

Inigo pounds again.

**MIRACLE MAX**

(opening a small  
window in the door)  
What? What?

**INIGO**

Are you the Miracle Max who  
worked for the King all those  
years?

**MIRACLE MAX**

The King's stinking son fired me.  
And thank you so much for bringing  
up such a painful subject. While  
you're at it, why don't you give  
me a nice paper cut and pour  
lemon juice on it? We're closed!

He shuts the window. They rap on the door.

**MIRACLE MAX**

(opening the window)  
Beat it or I'll call the Brute  
Squad.

**FEZZIK**

I'm on the Brute Squad.

**MIRACLE MAX**

(looking at the Giant)  
You are the Brute Squad.

**INIGO**

We need a miracle. It's very important.

---

92.

**MIRACLE MAX**

Look, I'm retired. And besides, why would you want someone the King's stinking son fired? I might kill whoever you wanted me to miracle.

**INIGO**

He's already dead.

**MIRACLE MAX**

(for the first time, interested)  
He is, eh? I'll take a look.  
Bring him in.

He unlocks the door and lets them in.

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO AND FEZZIK**

hurrying inside. FEZZIK carries Westley who is just starting to stiffen up a little. He lays Westley down across a bench by the fireplace, picks Westley's arm up and lets it drop limp.

**MIRACLE MAX**

I've seen worse.

He studies Westley a moment, checking here, checking there.

**INIGO**

Sir. Sir.

**MIRACLE MAX**

Hah?

**INIGO**

We're really in a terrible rush.

**MIRACLE MAX**

(He takes nothing from nobody)  
Don't rush me, sonny. You rush a

miracle man, you get rotten miracles. You got money?

**INIGO**

Sixty-five.

**MIRACLE MAX**

Sheesh! I never worked for so little, except once, and that was a very noble cause.

---

93.

**INIGO**

This is noble, sir.  
(pointing to Westley, remorseful)  
His wife is crippled. His children are on the brink of starvation.

**MIRACLE MAX**

Are you a rotten liar.

**INIGO**

I need him to help avenge my father, murdered these twenty years.

**MIRACLE MAX**

Your first story was better.  
(looking around)  
Where's that bellows?  
(spots it)  
He probably owes you money, huh?  
Well, I'll ask him.

He goes to get a huge bellows.

**INIGO**

(stupefied)  
He's dead. He can't talk.

**MIRACLE MAX**

Look who knows so much. Well, it just so happens that your friend here is only mostly dead. There's a big difference between mostly dead and all dead. Please open his mouth.

Inigo does. Max inserts the bellows in Westley's mouth and starts to pump.

**MIRACLE MAX**

Now, mostly dead is slightly alive. Now, all dead...well, with all dead, there's usually only

one thing that you can do.

**INIGO**

What's that?

He stops pumping.

**MIRACLE MAX**

Go through his clothes and look  
for loose change.

---

94.

He starts pumping again.

**MIRACLE MAX**

(to Westley)

Hey! Hello in there. Hey! What's  
so important? What you got here  
that's worth living for?

And he presses lightly on Westley's chest.

**WESTLEY**

... tr ... oooo .... luv...

Everybody stares at Westley lying there on the bench.

**INIGO**

True love. You heard him. You  
could not ask for a more noble  
cause than that.

**MIRACLE MAX**

Sonny, true love is the greatest  
thing in the world. Except for a  
nice MLT, a mutton, lettuce and  
tomato sandwich, where the mutton  
is nice and lean and the tomato  
is ripe. They're so perky, I love  
that. But that's not what he said.  
He distinctly said "to blave."  
And, as we all know, "to blave"  
means "to bluff." So you're  
probably playing cards, and he  
cheated

**A WOMAN'S VOICE**

-- Liar -- LIAR-LI-A-A-AR --

VALERIE, an ancient fury, storms out of a back room and  
toward

**MIRACLE MAX**

-- get back, witch --

**VALERIE**

I'm not a witch, I'm your wife.  
But after what you just said, I'm  
not even sure I want to be that  
anymore.

**MIRACLE MAX**

You never had it so good.

---

95.

**VALERIE**

"True love." He said, "true  
love," Max. My God --

**MIRACLE MAX**

(retreating)  
Don't say another word, Valerie.

**VALERIE**

(turning to Inigo and Fezzik)  
He's afraid. Ever since Prince  
Humperdinck fired him, his  
confidence is shattered.

**MIRACLE MAX**

Why'd you say that name -- you  
promised me that you would never  
say that name --

**VALERIE**

(pursuing him now)  
What, Humperdinck? Humperdinck.  
Humperdinck. Ooo-ooo, Humperdinck

**MIRACLE MAX**

(holding his hands  
over his ears)  
I'm not listening.

**VALERIE**

A life expiring and you don't  
have the decency to say why you  
won't help --

**MIRACLE MAX**

Nobody's hearing nothing!

**VALERIE**

Humperdinck. Humperdinck!  
Humperdinck!

**INIGO**

-- But this is Buttercup's true  
love -- If you heal him, he will  
stop Humperdinck's wedding.

**VALERIE**

Humperdinck. Humperdinck --

**MIRACLE MAX**

(to Valerie)

Shut up --

(now to Inigo)

Wait. Wait. I make him better,  
Humperdinck suffers?

---

96.

**INIGO**

Humiliations galore!

**MIRACLE MAX**

That is a noble cause. Give me  
the sixty-five, I'm on the job.

And as Valerie shrieks excitedly we

**CUT TO:**

**THIS LUMP**

It is somewhat smaller than a tennis ball.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL MAX AND VALERIE, exhausted, looking at the lump with beautiful pleasure, as Valerie, cooking utensil in hand, covers the thing with what looks like chocolate. Inigo and FEZZIK stare at the thing too, but more dubiously.

**INIGO**

(a little appalled)

That's a miracle pill?

Max nods.

**VALERIE**

(finishing)

The chocolate coating makes it go  
down easier. But you have to wait  
fifteen minutes for full potency.  
And you shouldn't go swimming  
after, for at least, what?

**MIRACLE MAX**

An hour.

**VALERIE**

Yeah, an hour.

**MIRACLE MAX**

A good hour. Yeah.

Inigo accepts the pill as FEZZIK takes Westley, who is stiff as a board now.

**INIGO**

(heading out the door,  
Fezzik close behind)  
Thank you for everything.

**MIRACLE MAX**

Okay.

---

97.

**VALERIE**

(waving after them)  
Bye-bye, boys.

**MIRACLE MAX**

Have fun storming the castle.

**VALERIE**

(to Max)  
Think it'll work?

**MIRACLE MAX**

It would take a miracle. Bye!

**VALERIE**

Bye.

And as they wave, trying to look happy we --

**CUT TO:**

**FEZZIK, INIGO, AND WESTLEY**

on the top of the outer wall of the castle. They look down to the front gate of the castle. The sixty Brutes are visible.

FEZZIK is thunderstruck by how many Brutes there are. Upset, he turns to Inigo, who is concentrating unsuccessfully, trying to prop Westley against the wall.

**FEZZIK**

Inigo -- there's more than  
thirty --

**INIGO**

(absolutely unfazed)  
What's the difference?  
(indicating the half-  
dead Westley)  
We've got him. Help me here.  
We'll have to force feed him.

**FEZZIK**

Has it been fifteen minutes?

**INIGO**

We can't wait -- the wedding's in  
half an hour and we must strike  
in the hustle and the bustle  
beforehand.

During this, FEZZIK, using all his strength, has managed to  
get Westley into a right angled sitting position, while  
Inigo brings out the miracle pill.

---

98.

**INIGO**

Tilt his head back. Open his mouth.

**FEZZIK**

(following orders)  
How long do we have to wait  
before we know if the miracle  
works?

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

Pill in hand, he drops it into Westley's mouth.

**INIGO**

Your guess is as good as mine --

**WESTLEY**

(frantic)  
I'll beat you both apart. I'll  
take you both together.

**FEZZIK**

Guess not very long.

Inigo and FEZZIK react. Westley is the only one not amazed.

**WESTLEY**

Why won't my arms move?

He sits there, immobile, like a ventriloquist's dummy.

**FEZZIK**

You've been mostly dead all day.

**INIGO**

We had Miracle Max make a pill to  
bring you back.

**WESTLEY**

Who are you? -- Are we enemies?  
Why am I on this wall? -- Where's  
Buttercup? --

**INIGO**

Let me explain --  
(pauses very briefly)  
-- No, there is too much. Let me  
sum up.

**(MORE)**

---

99.

**INIGO (CONT'D)**

Buttercup is marrying Humperdinck  
in a little less than half an  
hour, so all we have to do is get  
in, break up the wedding, steal  
the Princess, make our escape  
after I kill Count Rugen.

**WESTLEY**

That doesn't leave much time for  
dilly dallying.

He is watching his fingers, one of which twitches now.

**FEZZIK**

You've just wiggled your finger.  
That's wonderful.

**WESTLEY**

I've always been a quick healer.  
(to Inigo)  
What are our liabilities?

**INIGO**

There is but one working castle  
gate.

Fezzik helps Inigo raise Westley just high enough so he can  
see for himself.

**INIGO**

And it is guarded by sixty men.

**WESTLEY**

And our assets?

**INIGO**

Your brains, Fezzik's strength,  
my steel.

**CUT TO:**

**WESTLEY**

absolutely stunned.

**WESTLEY**

That's it? Impossible. If I had a month to plan, maybe I could come up with something. But this...

He shakes his head from side to side.

**CUT TO:**

---

100.

**INIGO AND FEZZIK**

**FEZZIK**

(trying to be cheery)  
You just shook your head -- that doesn't make you happy?

**WESTLEY**

My brains, his steel, and your strength against sixty men, and you think a little head jiggle is supposed to make me happy? I mean, if we only had a wheelbarrow, that would be something.

**INIGO**

Where did we put that wheelbarrow the Albino had?

**FEZZIK**

Over the Albino, I think.

**WESTLEY**

Well, why didn't you list that among our assets in the first place? What I wouldn't give for a holocaust cloak.

**INIGO**

There we cannot help you.

**FEZZIK**

(pulling one out)  
Will this do?

**INIGO**

(to Fezzik-- surprised)  
Where did you get that?

**FEZZIK**

At Miracle Max's. It fit so nice,

he said I could keep it.

**WESTLEY**

All right, all right. Come on,  
help me up.

Inigo and Fezzik do.

**WESTLEY**

Now, I'll need a sword eventually.

---

101.

**INIGO**

Why? You can't even lift one.

**WESTLEY**

True, but that's hardly common  
knowledge, is it?

(And his head tilts

limply back. Fezzik

sets it up right for him)

Thank you. Now, there may be  
problems once we're inside.

**INIGO**

I'll say -- how do I find the  
Count? -- Once I do, how do I  
find you again? -- Once I find  
you again, how do we escape? --

**FEZZIK**

(sharply)

Don't pester him, he's had a hard  
day.

**INIGO**

(nods)

Right, right, sorry.

**CUT TO:**

**A SHOT OF THE THREE OF THEM IN PROFILE**

They move along the wall in silence for a time. Then these  
words come to us on the wind --

**FEZZIK**

Inigo.

**INIGO**

What?

**FEZZIK**

I hope we win...

CUT TO:

**BUTTERCUP**

in her bridal gown, and she's incredible. It's not just her beauty; there's a tranquillity about her now.

**PULL BACK TO REVEAL**

The Prince, fastening a pearl necklace around her.

---

102.

**HUMPERDINCK**

You don't seem excited, my little muffin.

**BUTTERCUP**

Should I be?

**HUMPERDINCK**

Brides often are, I'm told.

**BUTTERCUP**

(gently, confidently)  
I do not marry tonight.

CUT TO:

**BUTTERCUP**

and she couldn't seem more serene.

**BUTTERCUP**

My Westley will save me.

CUT TO:

**HER WESTLEY**

looking down on the gate with Inigo and Fezzik.

CUT TO:

**THE MAIN GATE OF THE CASTLE**

-- and Yellin, standing there, flanked by his sixty Brutes.

CUT TO:

**WESTLEY AND INIGO AND FEZZIK**

looking out at the enemy. This is it. Inigo and FEZZIK shake hands.

Westley can't even do that, but after a bit of rocking back

and forth, he manages to get enough momentum to catapult his arm over and onto his friend's.

**CUT TO:**

**AN ABSOLUTELY GEM-LIKE LITTLE CHAPEL**

**PULL BACK TO REVEAL**

The most intelligent looking, the most impressive appearing CLERGYMAN imaginable.

---

**103.**

Buttercup and Humperdinck kneel before the Clergyman. Behind them sit the mumbling old KING AND QUEEN. Standing in the back is Count Rugen.

FOUR GUARDS are in position flanking the chapel door.

**IMPRESSIVE CLERGYMAN**

(clears his throat,  
begins to speak)  
Mawidge...mawidge is what bwings  
us togewer today...

He has an impediment that would stop a clock.

**IMPRESSIVE CLERGYMAN**

Mawidge, the bwessed awwangement,  
that dweam wiffim a dweam...

And now, from outside the castle, there begins to come a commotion. And then--

**YELLIN**

(off-screen)  
Stand your ground, men. Stand  
your ground.

**CUT TO:**

**THE BRUTES AND YELLIN**

by the gate, for it is indeed they who are making the commotion, frightened, pointing.

**YELLIN**

Stand your ground.

**CUT TO:**

**THEIR P.O.V.:**

And it is a bit unnerving -- a GIANT seems to be floating toward them out of the darkness, a Giant in a strange cloak,

and with a voice that would crumble walls.

**FEZZIK**

(deep and booming)

**I AM THE DREAD PIRATE ROBERTS.  
THERE WILL BE NO SURVIVORS.**

**CUT TO:**

---

104.

**FEZZIK**

and he seems to be floating because he's standing in the wheelbarrow, as Inigo, hidden behind him, busts a gut by pushing it and supporting Westley.

**INIGO**

Now?

**WESTLEY**

Not yet.

**CUT TO:**

**THE GIANT FLOATING CLOSER**

**FEZZIK**

**MY MEN ARE HERE, AND I AM HERE,  
BUT SOON YOU WILL NOT BE HERE**

**CUT TO:**

**YELLIN**

keeping the Brutes in position, or trying to, shouting orders, instructions and as yet the Brutes hold. Now --

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO AND WESTLEY**

Inigo struggles bravely under their combined weight --

**INIGO**

Now?

**WESTLEY**

Light him.

**CUT TO:**

**THE BRUTES**

as the Giant bursts suddenly, happily into flames.

**FEZZIK**

(roaring)

**THE DREAD PIRATE ROBERTS TAKES NO  
SURVIVORS. ALL YOUR WORST  
NIGHTMARES ARE ABOUT TO COME TRUE.**

**CUT TO:**

THE CHAPEL, where The Impressive Clergyman plows on.

---

105.

**IMPRESSIVE CLERGYMAN**

... Ven wuv, twoo wuv, wiw fowwow  
you fowevery..

**CUT TO:**

PRINCE HUMPERDINCK, turning quickly, giving a sharp nod to  
Count Rugen, who immediately takes off out of the chapel  
with the Four Guards as we

**CUT TO:**

FEZZIK, flaming and scary as hell.

**FEZZIK**

**THE DREAD PIRATE ROBERTS IS HERE  
FOR YOUR SOULS!**

**CUT TO:**

**YELLIN**

as suddenly the Brutes just scream and take off in wild  
panic --

**YELLIN**

Stay where you are. I said stay  
where you are!

**CUT TO:**

**INSIDE THE CHAPEL**

**IMPRESSIVE CLERGYMAN**

... so tweasuwe your vruv..

**HUMPERDINCK**

Skip to the end.

**IMPRESSIVE CLERGYMAN**

Have you the wing?

As Humperdinck whips out the ring, the screams are very loud  
outside.

**BUTTERCUP**

Here comes my Westley now.

**CUT TO:**

Fezzik, as he pulls off the holocaust cloak.

**WESTLEY**

FEZZIK, the portcullis.

---

106.

And FEZZIK rushes forward, grabbing the portcullis, which is indeed closing quickly.

FEZZIK grabs the gate: and swings the tonnage back upward. Yellin just watches in fear.

**CUT TO:**

**THE CHAPEL**

as Humperdinck shoves the ring on Buttercup's finger

**HUMPERDINCK**

Your Westley is dead.

Buttercup only smiles, shakes her head.

**HUMPERDINCK**

I killed him myself.

**BUTTERCUP**

(never more serene)  
Then why is there fear behind  
your eyes?

**CUT TO:**

**PRINCE HUMPERDINCK**

And she's right. It's there.

**CUT TO:**

**YELLIN**

pressed against the main gate. Westley, Inigo, and FEZZIK close in.

**WESTLEY**

Give us the gate key.

**YELLIN**

(every ounce of

honesty he's got)  
I have no gate key.

**INIGO**

Fezzik, tear his arms off.

**FEZZIK**

steps toward him.

-----  
107.

**YELLIN**

Oh, you mean this gate key.

And he whips it out, hands it to Fezzik.

**CUT TO:**

**HUMPERDINCK AND BUTTERCUP**

**AND THE IMPRESSIVE CLERGYMAN**

**IMPRESSIVE CLERGYMAN**

And do you, Pwincess Buwwercwup...

**HUMPERDINCK**

Man and wife -- say man and wife...

**IMPRESSIVE CLERGYMAN**

Man and wife.

**HUMPERDINCK**

(whirling to the King  
and Queen)

Escort the bride to the Honeymoon  
Suite -- I'll be there shortly.

And as he dashes off --

**CUT TO:**

**BUTTERCUP**

standing there. Dazed.

**BUTTERCUP**

He didn't come.

**CUT TO:**

**COUNT RUGEN AND HIS FOUR WARRIORS**

racing through the castle, and as they reach a complex  
intersection of several corridors, Rugen stops, incredulous,  
as we

**CUT TO:**

**WESTLEY, INIGO, AND FEZZIK**

moving toward them. Actually Fezzik is dragging Westley, who is, in turn, dragging Yellin's sword like a stiff dog leash --Westley simply hasn't the strength to raise it.

**CUT TO:**

---

108.

**COUNT RUGEN**

as the confrontation is about to start.

**RUGEN**

Kill the dark one and the giant,  
but leave the third for  
questioning.

And as his Warriors attack --

Inigo goes wild, and maybe the Warrior's are good, maybe they're even better than that -- but they never get a chance to show it because this is something now, this is Inigo gone mad and the six-fingered sword has never flashed faster and the FOURTH WARRIOR is dead before the FIRST ONE has even hit the floor. There is a pause. Then --

**INIGO**

(to Rugen, evenly and soft)  
Hello. My name is Inigo Montoya.  
You killed my father. Prepare to  
die.

**CUT TO:**

**COUNT RUGEN**

For a moment he just stands there, sword in hand. Then he does a most unexpected thing. He turns and runs the hell away.

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

momentarily surprised, then taking off after him, leaving Westley and Fezzik to exchange curious looks and Rugen, running through a half-open heavy wooden door, shutting it and locking it just as Inigo throws himself against it. He tries again. No kind of chance.

**INIGO**

(calling out)

Fezzik, I need you --

**CUT TO:**

**FEZZIK WITH WESTLEY**

who is still unable to walk under his own power. He calls back --

---

109.

**FEZZIK**

(indicating Westley)  
I can't leave him alone.

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

desperately pounding at the heavy door.

**INIGO**

He's getting away from me, Fezzik.  
Please. FEZZIK!

**CUT TO:**

**FEZZIK AND WESTLEY**

**FEZZIK**

(to Westley)  
I'll be right back.

And he props Westley up against a large suit of armor and takes off toward the intersection where Inigo's voice came from --

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

still hammering the door. Fezzik approaches, gestures for him to stop, and with one mighty swipe of his mighty hands the door crumbles

**INIGO**

Thank you --

And Inigo flies through as Fezzik heads back to Westley.

**CUT TO:**

**BUTTERCUP WALKING WITH THE KING AND QUEEN**

The Queen, more sprightly, is several paces ahead.

**KING**

(can hardly be understood)  
Strange wedding.

**QUEEN**

Yes. A very strange wedding. Come  
along.

---

110.

Buttercup gently stops the King and places a kiss on his  
forehead. He's very surprised and pleased.

**KING**

What was that for?

**BUTTERCUP**

Because you've always been so  
kind to me. And I won't be seeing  
you again since I'm killing  
myself once we reach the Honeymoon  
Suite.

**KING**

(smiling away --his  
hearing isn't what it  
once was)  
Won't that be nice?  
(calling out to the Queen)  
She kissed me...

And on those words --

**CUT TO:**

**COUNT RUGEN**

And he's running, dashing through corridors and as he  
glances back --

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

behind him, coming like a streak and --

**CUT TO:**

**THE INTERSECTION**

with the large suit of armor, and Fezzik gaping, staring at  
all those choices, trying to piece together the puzzle of  
the missing Westley.

**CUT TO:**

**COUNT RUGEN**

flashing out of one room, down a staircase, picking up his pace. He pulls out a deadly looking dagger, with a sharp point and a triangular shaped blade, and sprints on and --

**CUT TO:**

---

111.

**INIGO**

closing the gap, closer, closer and he's down the stairs and heading into a dining hall and --

**CUT TO:**

**COUNT RUGEN**

throwing the dagger --

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

trying like hell to get out of the way, but no, and it sticks deep into his stomach, and he hurtles back helplessly against the wall of the room, his eyes glazed, blood coming from his wound.

The room is going white on him.

**INIGO**

... Sorry, Father ... I tried ...  
I tried...

**CUT TO:**

**COUNT RUGEN**

looking across the room at Inigo. He stares at Inigo's face, and then touches his own cheeks, as memory comes.

**RUGEN**

You must be that little Spanish brat I taught a lesson to all those years ago. It's simply incredible. Have you been chasing me your whole life only to fail now? I think that's the worst thing I ever heard. How marvelous.

Inigo sinks.

**CUT TO:**

**BUTTERCUP**

shutting the door of the Honeymoon Suite, crossing quietly to the far wall where she sits at a table, opens a jeweled box, and takes out a very deadly looking dagger. She seems very much at peace as she touches the knife to her bosom.

---

112.

**WESTLEY**

There's a shortage of perfect breasts in this world. It would be a pity to damage yours.

And Buttercup whirls as we --

**CUT TO:**

**WESTLEY**

lying on the bed. Yellin's sword is beside him. His voice sounds just fine, but he does not move.

Buttercup leaps to the bed, covering him with kisses. Westley is helpless.

**BUTTERCUP**

Oh, Westley, darling.  
(more kisses)  
Westley, why won't you hold me?

**WESTLEY**

(gently)  
Gently.

**BUTTERCUP**

At a time like this that's all you can think to say? "Gently?"

**WESTLEY**

(not so gently)  
Gently!!

And she lets go, thumping his head against the headboard and

**CUT TO:**

**COUNT RUGEN**

looking very much surprised.

**RUGEN**

Good heavens. Are you still trying to win?

**PULL BACK TO REVEAL**

Inigo, struggling feebly, pulling the dagger from his stomach. Holding the wound with his left hand.

Rugen is pushing off from the table, sword in hand, moving in to kill Inigo.

---

**113.**

**RUGEN**

You've got an overdeveloped sense of vengeance. It's going to get you into trouble some day.

Inigo watches the Count approach, and the Count flicks his sword at Inigo's heart, and there's not much Inigo can do, just kind of vaguely parry the thrust with the six-fingered sword and Count Rugen's blade sinks deeply into Inigo's left shoulder.

Inigo doesn't seem to feel it, his other agonies are so much worse.

**CUT TO:**

**THE COUNT**

stepping back, going for the heart again.

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

And as this blow comes he's trying to use the wall for support in forcing himself to his feet, and it's not a roaring success of an attempt, but he does at least make some progress, and again he manages to parry the thrust, as this time Rugen's sword runs through his right arm. Again, Inigo doesn't seem to mind, doesn't even feel it.

**CUT TO:**

**COUNT RUGEN**

stepping back for just a moment, watching as Inigo continues to inch his way to his feet and then, just before the Count is about to strike again, Inigo manages a little flick of his own and Rugen hadn't expected it, and he jumps back, makes a little involuntary cry of surprise and

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

slowly pushing away from the wall.

**INIGO**

(all but audible)

Hello. My name is Inigo Montoya,  
you killed my father; prepare to  
die.

**CUT TO:**

---

**114.**

**COUNT RUGEN**

suddenly going into a fierce attack, striking with great power and precision for he is a master swordsman, and he forces Inigo easily back, drives him easily into the wall. But he does not penetrate Inigo's defense. None of the Count's blows get home. As the Count steps back a moment --

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

pushing slowly off from the wall again.

**INIGO**

(a little louder)

Hello. My name is Inigo Montoya,  
you killed my father, prepare to  
die.

**CUT TO:**

**THE COUNT**

And again he attacks, slashing with wondrous skill. But none of his blows get through and, slowly, Inigo, again moves forward.

**INIGO**

(a little louder still)

Hello. My name is Inigo Montoya.  
You killed my father. Prepare to  
die.

**RUGEN**

Stop saying that!

**CUT TO:**

**COUNT RUGEN**

retreating more quickly around the table.

Inigo drives for the Count's left shoulder now, thrusts home where the Count had gotten him. Then another move and his blade enters the Count's right shoulder, the same spot Inigo

was wounded.

**INIGO**  
(all he's got)  
**HELLO! MY NAME IS INIGO MONTOYA.**  
**YOU KILLED MY FATHER. PREPARE TO**  
**DIE.**

---

115.

**RUGEN**  
No --

**INIGO**  
-- offer me money --

And now the six-fingered sword strikes and there is a slash bleeding along one of Rugen's cheeks.

**RUGEN**  
-- yes --

**INIGO**  
-- power too -- promise me that --

The great sword flashes again, and now there is a parallel slash bleeding on Rugen's other cheek.

**RUGEN**  
-- all that I have and more  
please --

**INIGO**  
-- offer me everything I ask  
for --

**RUGEN**  
-- anything you want --

**INIGO**  
(roaring)  
**I WANT MY FATHER BACK, YOU SON-**  
**OFA-BITCH!**

And on that --

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

and almost too fast for the eye to follow, the sword strikes one final time and --

**CUT TO:**

**COUNT RUGEN**

crying out in fear and panic as the sword hits home dead center and --

**CUT TO:**

---

116.

**INIGO AND RUGEN**

the sword clear through the Count. They are almost frozen like that for a moment. Then Inigo withdraws his sword and as the Count pitches down --

**CUT TO:**

**RUGEN**

lying dead. His skin is ashen and the blood still pours from the parallel cuts on his cheeks and his eyes are bulging wide, full of fear.

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

staring at Rugen. And now Inigo does something we have never seen him do before: he smiles. HOLD FOR JUST A MOMENT on Inigo smiling, then --

**CUT TO:**

**INSIDE THE HONEYMOON SUITE**

WESTLEY lies as before, not a muscle has moved, his head is still on the headboard, Yellin's sword at his side.

Buttercup is alongside the bed; her eyes never leave his face.

**BUTTERCUP**

Oh, Westley, will you ever forgive me?

**WESTLEY**

What hideous sin have you committed lately?

**BUTTERCUP**

I got married. I didn't want to. It all happened so fast.

**WESTLEY**

It never happened.

**BUTTERCUP**

What?

**WESTLEY**

It never happened.

---

117.

**BUTTERCUP**

But it did. I was there. This old man said, "Man and wife."

**WESTLEY**

Did you say, "I do"?

**BUTTERCUP**

Well, no, we sort of skipped that part.

**WESTLEY**

Then you're not married -- if you didn't say it, you didn't do it  
(a pause)  
-- wouldn't you agree, Your Highness?

**CUT TO:**

**HUMPERDINCK**

entering the room, staring at them. He pulls out his sword.

**HUMPERDINCK**

A technicality that will shortly be remedied. But first things first. To the death.

**WESTLEY**

No.  
(a little pause)  
To the pain.

**HUMPERDINCK**

(about to charge,  
stops short)  
I don't think I'm quite familiar with that phrase.

**WESTLEY**

I'll explain. And I'll use small words so that you'll be sure to understand, you wart-hog-faced buffoon.

**HUMPERDINCK**

That may be the first time in my life a man has dared insult me.

CUT TO:

---

118.

**WESTLEY**

lying there comfortably, his words quiet at first.

**WESTLEY**

It won't be the last. To the pain  
means the first thing you lose  
will be your feet, below the  
ankles, then your hands at the  
wrists, next your nose.

CUT TO:

**HUMPERDINCK**

gripping his sword, watching.

**HUMPERDINCK**

-- and then my tongue, I suppose.  
I killed you too quickly the last  
time, a mistake I don't mean to  
duplicate tonight.

**WESTLEY**

I wasn't finished -- the next  
thing you lose will be your left  
eye, followed by your right --

**HUMPERDINCK**

(takes step forward)  
-- and then my ears, I understand.  
Let's get on with it

CUT TO:

**CLOSE UP: WESTLEY HUGE**

**WESTLEY**

Wrong! Your ears you keep, and  
I'll tell you why --

CUT TO:

**HUMPERDINCK**

And now he stops, and the look that was in his eyes at the  
wedding, that look of fear, is starting to return.

**WESTLEY**

-- so that every shriek of every  
child at seeing your hideousness  
will be yours to cherish -- every

babe that weeps at your approach,  
every woman who cries out, "Dear  
God, what is that thing?" will  
echo in your perfect ears.

(MORE)

---

119.

**WESTLEY (CONT'D)**

That is what "to the pain" means.  
It means I leave you in anguish,  
wallowing in freakish misery  
forever.

**CUT TO:**

**HUMPERDINCK**

doing his best to hide the fear that keeps building inside  
him.

**HUMPERDINCK**

I think you're bluffing --

**CUT TO:**

**WESTLEY**

lying there, staring at him.

**WESTLEY**

It's possible, pig -- I might be  
bluffing -- it's conceivable, you  
miserable vomitous mass, that I'm  
only lying here because I lack  
the strength to stand -- then  
again, perhaps I have the strength  
after all.

And now, slowly, Westley begins to move. His body turns, his  
feet go to the floor, he starts to stand --

**CUT TO:**

**HUMPERDINCK**

staring, eyes wide.

**CUT TO:**

**WESTLEY**

And now he is standing, sword in fighting position.

**WESTLEY**

(slow and determined)

**DROP-YOUR-SWORD.**

**CUT TO:**

---

120.

**PRINCE HUMPERDINCK**

and he's so panicked he doesn't know whether to pee or wind his watch. He throws his sword to the floor.

**WESTLEY**

(to Humperdinck)

Have a seat.

**CUT TO:**

**WESTLEY**

speaking to Buttercup as Humperdinck sits.

**WESTLEY**

Tie him up. Make it as tight as you like.

And as she sets to work --

**CUT TO:**

**INIGO**

entering, looking around.

**INIGO**

Where's Fezzik?

**WESTLEY**

I thought he was with you.

**INIGO**

No.

**WESTLEY**

In that case --

his balance betrays him.

**INIGO**

(to Buttercup)

Help him.

**BUTTERCUP**

Why does Westley need helping?

**INIGO**

Because he has no strength --

CUT TO:

---

121.

**HUMPERDINCK**

and now he starts wrestling mightily with his bonds.

**HUMPERDINCK**

I knew it! I knew you were bluffing! I knew he was bluffing.

**INIGO**

(staring at the Prince)  
Shall I dispatch him for you?

**WESTLEY**

(considers this, then)  
Thank you, but no -- whatever happens to us, I want him to live a long life alone with his cowardice.

**FEZZIK**

(off-screen)  
Inigo! Inigo, where are you?

They look at each other, then move to the balcony, and

CUT TO:

**FEZZIK**

leading FOUR GREAT WHITE HORSES. He glances up, sees them on the balcony.

**FEZZIK**

Ah, there you are. Inigo, I saw the Prince's stables, and there they were, four white horses. And I thought, there are four of us, if we ever find the lad -- hello, lad -- so I took them with me, in case we ever bumped into each other.

(considers things a moment)  
I guess we just did.

CUT TO:

**INIGO AND WESTLEY AND BUTTERCUP**

looking down at FEZZIK.

**INIGO**

FEZZIK, you did something right.

---

122.

**FEZZIK**

Don't worry -- I won't let it go  
to my head.

And as he holds out his great arms--

**CUT TO:**

**SOMETHING UNEXPECTED AND VERY LOVELY:**

Buttercup floating through the air. What's happening, of course, is that she's jumping from the balcony so Fezzik can catch her. But her fall is in slow motion so you might think she was flying.

Westley and Inigo, watching as FEZZIK catches Buttercup.

**INIGO**

You know, it's very strange -- I  
have been in the revenge business  
so long, now that it's over, I  
don't know what to do with the  
rest of my life.

**WESTLEY**

(as Inigo gets him  
ready for his jump)  
Have you ever considered piracy?  
You'd make a wonderful Dread  
Pirate Roberts.

Now from that --

**CUT TO:**

**THE FOUR GLORIOUS WHITE HORSES WITH THEIR FOUR RIDERS**

triumphantly racing through the night --

**CUT TO:**

**BUTTERCUP AND WESTLEY**

and at last their trials are done. They stop.

**GRANDFATHER**

(off-screen)

They rode to freedom. And as dawn  
arose, Westley and Buttercup knew  
they were safe. A wave of love  
swept over them. And as they  
reached for each other...

-----  
123.

As Buttercup and Westley begin their ultimate kiss --

**CUT TO:**

**THE KID'S BEDROOM**

The Grandfather stops reading.

**THE KID**

What? What?

**GRANDFATHER**

No, it's kissing again. You don't want to hear it.

**THE KID**

I don't mind so much.

He gestures for his Grandfather to read.

**GRANDFATHER**

Okay.

**CUT TO:**

**BUTTERCUP AND WESTLEY**

locked in a deep, pure and passionate kiss.

**GRANDFATHER**

(off-screen)

Since the invention of the kiss, there have been five kisses that were rated the most passionate, the most pure. This one left them all behind. The end.

**CUT TO:**

**THE KID'S ROOM**

The Grandfather snaps the book closed.

**GRANDFATHER**

Now I think you ought to go to sleep.

**THE KID**

Okay.

**GRANDFATHER**

(standing, readying to leave)  
Okay. Okay. Okay. All right. So

long.

---

124.

**THE KID**

Grandpa?

The Old Man stops, turns.

**THE KID**

Maybe you could come over and  
read it again to me tomorrow.

**GRANDFATHER**

(a beat)

As you wish...

And his smile is enough. As The Grandfather steps out the  
door, tipping his hat--

**FINAL FADE OUT.**

**THE END.**