

# THE MAIDEN & THE DRAGON

RADIO DRAMA IN 6 x 30 MINUTE EPISODES

## REEVE EUSTACE

**Reeve Eustace** is a rather unpleasant, officious character. As the Reeve of the village, his job is to ensure that the villagers do their contracted amount of work for the local estate, on top of their own work, predominantly farming. He is also responsible for collecting taxes. This work might ordinarily make anyone unpopular, but Eustace's own behaviour towards people ensures that he is not liked in the village.

The character is 42yrs old.

Please ask a friend to play the other part in the audition piece so there is someone to interact with.

**AUDITION PIECE – Reeve Eustace and Wise-Woman Charlotte**

REEVE EUSTACE IS WALKING THROUGH THE WOODS, ON HIS WAY TO WISE-WOMAN CHARLOTTE'S HOUSE. HE IS SLIGHTLY BREATHLESS.

REEVE                    How dare they. How dare they! I am the Reeve of this village, and I will be obeyed! The fools, do they not understand that failure to pay their rightful taxes will have consequences for them? They think that this so-called Dragon demon creature can protect them always. But one day it will be gone, and they will greatly regret their disrespect! Gah, where is the old hag's house? What right-minded person would live amongst the trees? Ah, I see smoke. That must be her hovel. Wise Woman Charlotte! Wise Woman Charlotte!

CHARLOTTE            Who calls me?

REEVE                    'Tis I, the Reeve, Eustace.

CHARLOTTE            The Reeve? Come hither, have a seat by my fire. You have been Reeve for many years now, but never till now have you paid me a visit sir. So, I wonder, on what business you do come now, and, it seems, with a manner of urgency about you?

REEVE                    Good madam, 'tis on the matter of the beast the villagers call the Dragon. This vile creature hath, I fear, cast an uncanny spell on this manor and enlisted the good folk of Harroton into its heinous plan.

CHARLOTTE I see. And what plan be that?

REEVE Why, to cause unrest and insurrection such that my position becomes untenable and thereby turn the villagers against me and, ultimately, to see me banished from the village! And once I am gone, then will the creature be free to enslave the population, and indeed the good Lord Lambton, and then shall we be visited by a host of more such beasts who will... well, I am afraid to imagine what terrible events would then transpire. That is why I have paid you this visit, to seek your counsel on how to rid the village of this dark cloud.

CHARLOTTE Goodness. What exactly have you witnessed that would give you cause to harbour such a dreadful fear?

REEVE The beast is clever. Till now, it has rendered the village service by its constant assistance with harvests, ploughing, lifting sick animals to shelter, even picking the fruit from the top of the trees which previously lay out of reach.