

THE MAIDEN & THE DRAGON

RADIO DRAMA IN 6 x 30 MINUTE EPISODES

GOODWIFE BEAMISH and ELEANOR

Goodwife Beamish and her husband Benedict own the local tavern. She is a very positive, optimistic person.

Eleanor is Marian's (the main character) deceased mother. When the Dragon 'speaks' to Marian, it is her mother's voice that she hears. She is kind and wise.

You should record BOTH audition pieces, using a different voice for each (obviously!). Please ask a friend to say the lines of the other character in each piece.

AUDITION PIECE a – Goodwife Beamish and the Village Reeve

In this scene, the scheming Village Reeve (who helps the local Lord of the estate organise the villagers to do work for him and collects taxes) is having a drink in the tavern. (When the blacksmith is mentioned, the Reeve really doesn't like him.)

INT. BEAMISH TAVERN

THE REEVE ENTERS THE TAVERN. GOODWIFE BEAMISH IS SERVING.

REEVE Goodwife Beamish, good day to you. A cider for this thirsty Reeve, I prithee.

GOODWIFE
BEAMISH Aye, sir. You look very tired, Reeve Eustace. Up all night counting our tax money I'd wager.

REEVE If only madam. The creature bars me from so many households that I have collected scarcely ten groats in the last year.

GOODWIFE
BEAMISH Sounds like the young Blacksmith has had better luck than you.

REEVE How so, madam?

GOODWIFE
BEAMISH Well, you know, he's been working all hours, saving up to buy his and Marian's liberty. The whole village knows. He was just in here before you, having a celebratory drink. The young 'un actually did it. He told me he has all the money and he and Marian are off to the Manor house

straight after church this Sunday, to make payment. Oh, he was so happy. Any mother would be proud of a son like that!

REEVE Indeed. How joyous. (SIGHS) And how are your two little ones?

GOODWIFE
BEAMISH One child would have been enough, but twins! I'm afraid I've had little sleep myself all year. And they're both walking already, it's exhausting just keeping up with them!

REEVE Indeed. 'Tis lively in here today.

GOODWIFE
BEAMISH Aye, the fishermen are much vexed. They say their nets are once again bare and they know not why.

AUDITION PIECE b – Eleanor and Marian (13yrs old)

In this scene, Marian is saying farewell to the dragon. As mentioned, the dragon's voice sounds like Marian's deceased mother, Eleanor.

MARIAN Will you stay now?

ELEANOR I cannot. My purpose here is done.

MARIAN But you can still stay. You have many friends here.
I need you.

ELEANOR No, Marian. You do not.

MARIAN But will you ever come back?

ELEANOR A dragon's life is long and 'tis possible that many
human lifetimes from now, I shall return when, I
hope, my false reputation shall have been
forgotten. For now, all will see dragons as
fearsome and hateful beasts, to be hunted and
killed. The news of my rebirth must be a secret.

MARIAN But what will you do now?

ELEANOR When night falls, I shall swim downstream,
toward the sea and then I shall spread my wings
and fly off to my homeland.

MARIAN But you have never before been to your
homeland? How will you find it?

ELEANOR It has always been here, in my heart, as your own
home is in your heart. It tells me that if I just fly, I
shall in good time, find that place where I am
welcome and where I may live at ease. Your family
accepted me and nurtured me, and I shall not
forget this kindness and shall think of it often.

MARIAN May I embrace you Jabberwock, one final time?

ELEANOR Yes. That would greatly please me.

MARIAN PUTS HER ARMS ROUND THE JABBERWOCK'S NECK.

MARIAN Farewell my friend and teacher.

ELEANOR Farewell Marian. Return now to your family and I
wish you a long and peaceful life.