

# THE MAIDEN & THE DRAGON

RADIO DRAMA IN 6 x 30 MINUTE EPISODES

## JOHN LAMBTON

**John** is the son and heir of Lord Lambton who owns the estate all around where the play takes place. He was rather a charming ne'er do well at the beginning of the story but was sent abroad by his father to become a Knight and to experience warfare first hand to make him a suitable heir who the village would respect.

The character is 22yrs old.

(In the folk tale of 'The Lambton Worm', he is the young knight who slays the dragon.)

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

You should record BOTH audition pieces.

**AUDITION PIECE a – John Lambton and Marian (13yrs old)**

In this scene, John, who has recently returned from military duty overseas, is confronted by Marian, who loves the dragon.

JOHN      You have not changed Marian. Always up to something. What were you planning? To take the sword from this place and perhaps throw it in the river? So that justice could not be served unto the dragon?

MARIAN    Justice!?! How can it be justice that innocence and good are punishable by death?

JOHN      Innocence and good!?! Marian, the dragon is a wild beast, by its behaviour and by its look. Can you not see that?

MARIAN    No sire, I cannot. I judge the creature by its heart, and its heart is good.

JOHN      Marian, the villagers' minds are made up, the die is cast, and 'tis now my duty to take this sword and complete its mission.

MARIAN    Oh John, you are a good man, I know it. And you are free to decline this most unjust task.

JOHN      No Marian, I am not free. For I wear the coat of duty, and that sits on me heavier than any suit of armour. 'Twas given to me by my father, and, in turn, shall I pass it on to my children. I can no more take it off than your precious dragon can shed its skin.

**AUDITION PIECE b – John Lambton**

Letter from John Lambton to his father Lord Lambton, saying he is coming home from overseas:

"Father, I write with the most terrible news. When you last heard from me, your friend Juan Fernàndez had recently been made Grand Master of the Order of the Knights Hospitaller. As you know, my studies with him and my Knight training were hard, but I dedicated myself to the tasks he set. Under the protection of Pope Gregory, we thrived, and life was good. But after Gregory's death a few months ago, everything changed. A new Pope was appointed here, but also back in Avignon. So, then there were TWO Popes and Juan Fernàndez's behaviour became erratic. He decided that the Knights should cross the Ionian Sea to the Albanian lands and reclaim them as Christian, perhaps to prove himself. In truth, it was a stupid plan. Battle was joined at the city of Arta against their warrior leader Shpata and his hordes. I fought in a way that would make you proud, but we were defeated. Badly defeated, by their sheer numbers and their superior swords. Juan Fernandez was captured, I was left injured, thought dead, on the battlefield. But I managed to make my way back to the port of Vonitsa and from there, found a ship back to Rome. The Knights that remained here are securing my passage back to England. I will see you soon, my father. I miss the soft flowing waters of the River Wear. John."