

Noble Legacy - Baron Introduction Dialogue (Kingdom Mode)

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Seraphina de Warenne:

SERAPHINA

(Friendly)

Good day to you.

LORD/LADY

Greetings. Lady Seraphina, if I am not mistaken?

I am the Steward who has been granted land in this region by Duke William. I have journeyed to your holding to make acquaintances and learn the needs of your land.

SERAPHINA

(Calm)

Ah, steward - welcome. I am indeed Lady Seraphina de Warenne, and it is my pleasure to welcome you amongst those who serve Duke William and the future of our realm.

LORD/LADY

(Grateful)

The pleasure is mine, my lady.

SERAPHINA

(Calm)

I trust your journey was not too taxing, though travelling alone must have made it quite so. You have no retainers to bear your goods?

LORD/LADY

(Calm)

I do not. The journey was made largely alone, although I was accompanied by my Uncle for a token part of the way.

SERAPHINA

(Skeptical)

Yet no retainers? Curious indeed... In that case, your station is rather distinctive amongst the nobles of Greenwood.

LORD/LADY

(Serious)

Indeed. I am aware there will be many eyes upon me as I settle into these lands.

SERAPHINA

(Friendly)

Indeed there shall, but come - let us not dwell on your arrival, as much has happened since.

(Determined)

I am sure you are aware, but the Duke has many weighty concerns. He must be well aided if a favourable outcome is to be secured.

LORD/LADY

{Curious}

Aye, there has been much debate on the topic of the invasion. What is your counsel on the matter?

SERAPHINA

(Reflective, Hesitant)

My counsel? Well... I believe such undertakings require more than just swords and ships. I have made it my priority to ensure the Duke's forces are well-provisioned with grain, meat, and barley.

LORD/LADY

I see, and Thornvale, too, has your attention.

SERAPHINA

(Determined)

Indeed. Yet to balance both is merely a part of our duty as barons –
not only to the Duke, but to those in our care.

(Deep Breath)

...I ask you to heed me, steward: reliable surplus opens many doors.

Keep provisions flowing, and you will find that goodwill travels
faster than even the mightiest army.

LORD/LADY

I shall keep that in mind.

SERAPHINA

(Determined)

Good. I am sure the Duke has much faith in you, considering all you
have been granted.

That will be all for now. Yet do remember, if you are in need of aid,
do not hesitate to call upon me. I shall be glad to assist in any way
I can.

Vivienne de Clare:

VIVIENNE

Yes? Pray, state your business.

LORD/LADY

Good day, Countess. I am the Steward who has been granted land in this region by Duke William. I have journeyed to your holding to make acquaintances and learn the needs of your land.

VIVIENNE

(Disappointed)

You stand before Countess Vivienne de Clare, yet I am certain you know who I am, just as I already know you.

LORD/LADY

(Triumphant)

Word must travel fast on my arrival.

VIVIENNE

(Playful)

Quite! New faces come and go from these lands frequently, yet few have aroused as much suspicion and curiosity as you. Now why is that, I wonder?

LORD/LADY

(Tense)

I am unsure what you are referring to, my lady.

VIVIENNE

(Annoyed)

Unsure? Or simply... unwilling to speak the truth?

Do not trouble yourself with revealing all; it matters little whether
you are candid or not.

I shall speak plainly for you: Duke William's actions unsettle
delicate arrangements. Chaos threatens stability, and I find chaos
most... inconvenient.

LORD/LADY

(Skeptical)

You do not agree with the Duke's plans?

VIVIENNE

(Dramatic)

Why would I concur with such a cruel intrusion – forcing itself where
it was never invited, with little regard for those already present?
It is a most... graceless affair!

LORD/LADY

(Tense)

The invasion is the Duke's God-given right – he has claim over that
land.

VIVIENNE

(Annoyed)

Ah, did you think I was speaking of the Duke's invasion? Then perhaps
my meaning is lost on your foreign ears.

(Amused)

Outsider as you are, I cannot expect you to catch such nuances,
though I do find it entertaining to watch you try.

LORD/LADY

(Tense)

...I see...

VIVIENNE

(Sigh)

Anyhow, I shouldn't tarry any longer, much as I enjoy watching you squirm.

(Serious)

Where luxuries persuade, duty falters: wine, fabrics and indulgences - each softens resolve. If such things pass quietly through your forest, conversations become... effortless.

LORD/LADY

(Resigned)

I shall see what I can do, Countess...

VIVIENNE

(Playful)

Very good! That will do for now. Mark well the details of our little chat, (Serious) as I am not fond of repeating myself.

(Disappointed)

And as for your visage... (Sigh) I confess, I expected something more. Try not to make a habit of disappointing me.

(Flirtatious)

Off you go, now.

Edwin le Despenser:

EDWIN

(Resigned)

Greetings. I trust you bring a more accurate count of the livestock?

LORD/LADY

Good day. I am the Steward who has been granted land in this region by Duke William. I have journeyed to your holding to make acquaintances and learn the needs of your land.

EDWIN

Ah, that is you, is it? My pardon, I await a revised tally.

(Resigned)

The last man reported over two million sheep... (Sigh) Truly witless work. He would do better to hand the quill to the sheep and join the flock himself.

(Sigh)

That aside... you address Chancellor Edwin le Despenser, administrative overseer for Duke William's bureaucratic functions across Norman territories.

LORD/LADY

(Friendly)

A pleasure, Chancellor. Forgive the interruption; you seem occupied.

EDWIN

(Sigh, Resigned)

Occupied, yes. And likely to remain so. Governance is an unending task, yet it is essential to the realm's betterment.

LORD/LADY

(Playful)

Aye... I find ledgers often multiply the moment one turns their back...

EDWIN

(Chuckle)

Indeed. I am sure the Duke kept you busy.

(Skeptical)

Now, we have an invasion of our own to carry out - an endeavor which is certain to consume considerable resources...

LORD/LADY

(Curious)

You are opposed?

EDWIN

(Serious)

In an administrative sense: the invasion represents a considerable allocation of resources that would better serve Normandy itself.

LORD/LADY

So you would rather see the Duke bring domestic affairs to the forefront?

EDWIN

(Determined)

Precisely. Timber, stone, iron... Those who invest in such matters are remembered favorably.

LORD/LADY

I see. I shall keep that in mind, Chancellor.

EDWIN

Very good. That concludes our business. I bid you return to your land and attend to your new responsibilities.

You and I know better than most that efficiency begins at home.

Osric de Tosny:

OSRIC

(Friendly)

Well met. How may I be of service?

LORD/LADY

Greetings, you must be Baron Osric de Tosny. It is a pleasure to meet you.

I am the Steward who has been granted land in this region by Duke William. I have journeyed to your holding to make acquaintances and learn the needs of your land.

OSRIC

(Friendly, resigned quip)

Well met, steward. It is good to see new folk settle here... provided they've the sense to keep their footing.

(Reflective)

I must admit, to be granted land without noble standing is impressive. You will have many prying eyes on you, yet you do not strike me as a fool unprepared.

LORD/LADY

(Determined)

Indeed, I am aware some will be wary of my presence. Yet I also know the importance of maintaining one's composure and pressing on.

OSRIC

(Serious)

Very good. You must turn a blind eye to all that noise.

(Friendly)

I apologise for not visiting you sooner – you will learn I am quite the homebody! One who prefers to tend to the fields rather than courtly matters.

LORD/LADY

(Curious)

I see. Why is that, may I ask? Do you prefer to stay clear of the realm's political games?

OSRIC

(Determined)

A wise reason, certainly. But the truth is that my priority lies with the common folk, ensuring their needs are met.

(Determined)

I believe nobility bears responsibilities. Chief amongst them is caring for the people who work the land and keep the duchy fed.

LORD/LADY

I agree in that regard. The Duke will want the people in good order for the testing times ahead. Speaking of which, do you have much to say on the matter?

OSRIC

(Amused)

Hah! Straight to the heart of it, then.

(Sarcastic, skeptical)

On the 'great invasion', as some would call it? (Pause) ...I have my reservations.

(Wistful)

Normandy will be drained of men, resources, and food. (Sigh) The most vulnerable will suffer, yet I have found they are often left behind in pursuit of greener pastures...

LORD/LADY

I imagine you believe my land will play a part in that.

OSRIC

It already does. Feed people, keep hearths full and see families through. Well-fed folk are less eager to be bled dry by distant ambitions.

If Wheatford prospers, Normandy endures.

That is all I have to say for now. Your land is yours to tend, by the Duke's grant, not mine to command. Go. Wheatford will need you.

Sir Alaric de Montgomery:

SIR ALARIC

(Serious)

Speak.

LORD/LADY

Greetings, I am the Steward who has been granted land in this region by Duke William. I have journeyed to your holding to make acquaintances and learn the needs of your land.

SIR ALARIC

(Serious)

Ah, yes, Good to meet you. I am Sir Alaric de Montgomery. I command the forces of one of Normandy's foremost houses.

LORD/LADY

It is a pleasure to meet you, Sir Alaric.

SIR ALARIC

(Tense)

Let us not linger on courtesies. I have never been one for grand gestures or flowery words. I find they often ring hollow.

LORD/LADY

Very well. Then I will be direct - your opinion on the upcoming invasion?

SIR ALARIC

(Reflective)

The invasion is a matter I have thought about deeply. Duke William prepares to cross the Channel and take what is his, and the burden of that campaign will soon be upon us.

(Serious)

My opinion? He can succeed... but only if we are adequately prepared. Otherwise it will be a costly waste of lives. Broken steel and failed armour will see good men buried due to poor preparation.

LORD/LADY

I see. So you are concerned about readiness?

SIR ALARIC

(Serious)

Readiness is everything, steward. We require ample stores of quality weapons and armour. Soldiers live longer when properly equipped... that is my chief concern.

LORD/LADY

I will see what can be done.

SIR ALARIC

(Relieved)

In that case, you seem to have a good head on your shoulders.

(Serious)

I have said what needed to be said. Return to your holding - steel doesn't wait, and neither do men who depend on it.

Bishop Aldric de Beaumont of Bayeux:

ALDRIC

(Serious)

Yes? State your purpose.

LORD/LADY

Greetings, I am the Steward who has been granted land in this region by Duke William. I have journeyed to your holding to make acquaintances and learn the needs of your land.

ALDRIC

Greetings, steward. I am Bishop Aldric de Beaumont of Bayeux, servant of God and shepherd to the faithful of this blessed duchy.

(Serious)

Duke William has spoken of you - a new steward granted land and opportunity to prove your worth. He has placed his trust in you. You must not let that go to waste.

LORD/LADY

I shall make certain not to.

ALDRIC

(Serious)

That you must, for we live in momentous times where failure will not be tolerated.

(Determined)

Duke William prepares to claim what is rightfully his across the narrow sea, and the Church stands ready to bless this righteous cause.

England has strayed from proper authority, and we shall ensure that their sinful ways are set aright.

LORD/LADY

How do you endeavor to do so?

ALDRIC

(Serious)

Through faith made visible: relics, shrines, symbols of devotion.

(Determined)

These remind men that Heaven watches their every choice, and ensures they do not stray from the path God has laid before them... one that demands high moral standing.

LORD/LADY

I understand, Bishop.

ALDRIC

Our conversation ends here. The Duke's charge remains yours alone to fulfill.

Go with God. May your actions reflect His wisdom.