

DODGER

CORONATION

Written by
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Draft Eleven

6.09.23

A HORSE DRAWN COACH trundles up a deserted highway. An AMERICAN FLAG is waving on one side. NEVILLE, a BURLEY COACHMAN is at the reins. (POV of the carriage approaching between two BLACK LEATHER BOOTS in the middle of the track.)

The COACH comes to a stop. NEVILLE is confused. There are just TWO BOOTS placed in the middle of the track. Why? That's when a HIGHWAYBOY steps out, barefooted. He has a tatty leather mask over his eyes, his eyes blacked out and is wearing a TOP HAT. He aims a concealed pistol at the coach driver covered by a cloth. Yes - it's DODGER! A teenage Turpin.

DODGER

Your money or your life!

NEVILLE

Don't kill me. I beg you.

A HIGHWAYGIRL steps out from another tree *behind* the coach brandishing a WOODEN CLUB. This is POLLY in disguise. Danson is about to hand over his money bag when the carriage door bursts open. A furious middle-aged American man steps out. This is MARTIN VAN BUREN. He is fearless and slightly unhinged, trying to keep the inner Wild West at bay.

VAN BUREN

Call yourself a bodyguard? Where are your guts, you onion? Don't hand over a dime! He's just a kid trying his luck, he's no more dangerous than a sack o'ducks.

DODGER

That's what they said before I robbed 'em.

DODGER points to a FIGURE face down on the ground under a tatty cloak, groaning. POLLY searches the coach. She finds a trunk. Inside is a HANDMADE AMERICAN QUILT; one side embroidered with the UNION JACK, the other the STARS AND STRIPES.

POLLY

He ain't got much. Just this ugly rug that ain't fit for a pig's bed.

VAN BUREN

That 'rug' as you put it, happens to be the Queen's coronation gift. An American quilt hand stitched from cottons and bobbins of the Pilgrim Fathers.

DODGER

Coronation? When?

VAN BUREN

This weekend. Where have you been
living for the last six months!!?
Under a rock?

DODGER

I have as it happens.

(scoffs)

Who buys the Queen a tatty old
blanket for a coronation present?

VAN BUREN

The President of the United States
of America.

DODGER

Who's that?

VAN BUREN

Me.

Van Buren pulls a PEPPERBOX PISTOL from his holster. DODGER and POLLY glance at each other nervously.

VAN BUREN (CONT'D)

Now I could just pop you point blank,
but I am a sporting man and I am
willing to give you a chance. Bandit
boy, I challenge you to a duel. If
you win, you keep my horse, my coach,
your life and the quilt.

DODGER

I ain't too fussed about the quilt.

VAN BUREN

You lose, you die.

DODGER

You're on.

POLLY

Really?

VAN BUREN

To the death!

NEVILLE

Back to back. I want a clean duel.
No cheating. Five paces. Ready
Mister President?

They are now both back to back. Van Buren raises his pistol.

VAN BUREN

Ready!

DODGER raises his 'pistol' into position, but it's just a
stick whittled into the shape of a pistol.

DODGER

Ready.

NEVILLE

One!

They pace one step.

NEVILLE (CONT'D)

Two!

Tension building now...

NEVILLE (CONT'D)

Three!

Dodger takes another pace.

NEVILLE (CONT'D)

Four!

Van Buren takes his fourth step - close on his foot as it lands right next to the body of the WOMAN FACE DOWN.

NEVILLE (CONT'D)

FIVE!

Van Buren takes one final pace and is about to turn when we PULL FOCUS from his boots to reveal the 'DEAD' lady's hand REACH OUT and GRAB VAN BUREN'S ANKLE flipping him on to the ground. IT'S MINNIE, Fagin's landlady. She's not dead. It was all part of the act. The GUNSHOT fires into the air.

2

EXT. EPPING FOREST - FARM HOUSE. DAY 1 - CONTINUOUS

2

Close on a hand about to steal some eggs from a coop as the shot rings out - REVEAL FAGIN - looking like someone who has been hiding in the woods for six months. As the shot rings out, dogs start barking in the distance. Dodger!

3

INT. EPPING FOREST. DAY 1 - CONTINUOUS

3

Van Buren is down. Minnie leaps to her feet. He takes aim and fires his gun but Polly pulls her away just in time. BANG! He misses. Buren aims again as DODGER makes a run for it, using trees for cover. Polly and Minnie dart off into the woods diving into a secret hiding place amongst the carpet of ferns. Dodger takes cover behind a tree. Little does he know that BUREN has a clear shot of him, side on. Buren is ABOUT TO SHOOT! Then Buren's face is SMOTHERED with STINGING NETTLES. REVEAL FAGIN who has grabbed him from behind.

FAGIN

Run!

Fagin throws VAN BUREN to the ground, takes the PISTOL from his hand and throws it far into the woods as he RUNS AWAY. Buren, however, takes a SECOND PISTOL from his ankle - takes aim, through his SORE, RED, SQUINTING STUNG EYES and BAM! Fagin leaps in the air clutching his buttock!

Van Buren tries to chase, squinting, in pain (POV Buren's eyes/watery/closed up) but FAGIN and DODGER disappear into hiding places moments before VAN BUREN reaches them. He scans the woods.

VAN BUREN

Right, I'm gonna turn over every stone, set, burrow, trunk and toadstool. You hear me! You'll be raccoon food by nightfall.

NEVILLE puffs up next to Van Buren, way too late.

NEVILLE

We really haven't got time, you're due at Buckingham Palace in an hour. You cannot leave the Queen waiting. It's bad manners.

Van Buren kicks the floor, frustrated.

VAN BUREN

This isn't the end! You'll suffer, British Woodfolk - I pledge to kill you, skin you and turn you into purses! You mark my words!

Van Buren returns to his coach with Neville. The coast is clear - Dodger, Fagin, Polly and Minnie emerge from their hiding place. Fagin in agony.

DODGER

Are you alright?

FAGIN

Yeah - luckily he missed my vital orifice. I knew your Dodge Turpin schtick would get us in the schdook someday!

MINNIE

Let's go before he comes back.

POLLY

Yeah, I don't fancy being turned into a purse.

4

OMITTED

4

5

INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE STATE ROOM. DAY 1

5

QUEEN VICTORIA is having her final fitting for the coronation crown with THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, WILLIAM HOWLEY (60s) and JOHN BRIDGE, THE PEDANTIC CROWN JEWELLER (LATE 40S). Bridge is about to put the crown on the Queen's head.

QUEEN VICTORIA

Do we think it needs more jewels?

JOHN BRIDGE

There aren't any more jewels available. It already contains two thousand eight hundred and sixty eight diamonds, two hundred and seventy three pearls, seventeen sapphires, eleven emeralds and five rubies, ma'am.

QUEEN VICTORIA

Is that all? Shame.

Bridge carefully places it on her head.

QUEEN VICTORIA (CONT'D)

It weighs a ton!

JOHN BRIDGE

Two point three pounds to be precise.

QUEEN VICTORIA

Gosh you are boring John, but you do make good hats. Well, I suppose it'll suffice.

John Bridge is relieved.

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

Perhaps now you would permit me to discuss the um, programme of events for the forthcoming coronation Ma'am?

QUEEN VICTORIA

If you must but make it quick, I've got swan practice with the American President who is due any moment.

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

Of course. Now you are aware that your presence is required at Westminster Abbey tomorrow evening at eight pm for a full rehearsal of your coronation. It should only take in the region of five to six hours.

QUEEN VICTORIA

Six hours! Well in that case I shan't be going. I'm having a pre-coronation party tomorrow night. You'll have to move the rehearsal forward to the afternoon, and it must take no more than an hour.

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

Forgive me Ma'am, but I cannot gather the participants at such short notice.

QUEEN VICTORIA
 (steely glare)
You can gather me. That's all that
 matters. You work it out.

VAN BUREN bursts in.

VAN BUREN
 What kind of a country is this?
 I've only been here a whisker and
 already I've been hijacked and
 attacked by bandits. Is that how
 you welcome the most powerful man
 in the world?

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY
 Guards! Remove this vulgar oaf at
 once!

QUEEN VICTORIA
 That's the President of America.

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY
 Oh.

JOHN BRIDGE
 Ahem, with apologies Mr President,
 a little lesson in etiquette - it
 is customary to knock before
 entering and you address Her
 Majesty as 'Your Majesty' on the
 first introduction, and then
 'Ma'am' thereafter. And you only
 speak when you're spoken to.

VAN BUREN
 Kiss my sponge. I'm the President
 of America. I can speak to her any
 way I like.

QUEEN VICTORIA
 Where's my coronation present?

This is all she really cares about.

VAN BUREN
 Some bandits in the woods jumped my
 coach and stole it.

QUEEN VICTORIA
 Well what was your gift? The Emir
 of Harar bought me a solid gold
 four poster and the King of the
 Zulus bequeathed a zebra wearing
 pearls. It's rather tacky actually.
 It looks like a stripy tart.

VAN BUREN
 My gift was a quilt.

She laughs thinking he's joking.

VAN BUREN (CONT'D)
I'm serious.

She's a bit 'meh.'

VAN BUREN (CONT'D)
The finest American Quilt.

QUEEN VICTORIA
Mmm. Well it's the thought that counts. That's what everyone tells me. Anyway, fear not, Mr President. I will ensure these vagabonds are caught. This thief, what was he like?

VAN BUREN
A kid. Small. Cocky. Top hat.

QUEEN VICTORIA
Cocky, small, top hat!? That's the boy who tried to assassinate me!
Fetch the Chief of Police at once!

6

EXT. KENSAL GREEN CEMETERY. DAY 1

6

CLOSE ON GRAVESTONE. It reads 'SIR CHARLES ROWAN, CHIEF OF POLICE. BORN 1782, DIED 1838.' There is a small portrait of Sir Charles in a frame in front. Pull back to reveal PC DUFF and COMMANDER BLATHERS staring at it. Blathers places a bunch of flowers down.

DUFF
Happy Birthday Commander. You are sorely missed.

Duff places a bunch of grapes on the grave.

BLATHERS
What's this?

DUFF
You said bring a bunch. So I brought a bunch of grapes. I nearly brought a bunch of bananas but it didn't seem right.

BLATHERS
Yeah, I meant bring a bunch of flowers.

DUFF
Ohhhhh... Terrible shame.

BLATHERS
Yes. Tragic.

DUFF
And he never did get a chance to catch Dodger did he?

BLATHERS

Nah.

They hear a voice from behind as a POLICE OFFICER approaches, (out of focus/don't reveal who/over shoulder).

POLICE OFFICER O/C

Sorry to trouble you, Chief, but the Queen needs you at the palace immediately. The President of America has been robbed.

BLATHERS

Who by?

Now we reveal the uniformed officer - IT'S FAGIN'S EX-GANG MEMBER, TOM CHITLING. HE'S A POLICE OFFICER!

PC CHITLING

You won't believe it when I tell ya, sir... Dodger.

7

EXT. FAGIN'S DEN, EPPING FOREST. NIGHT 1

7

A clearing in the woods with two large human sized burrows. This is the gang's forest hideout. Fagin is laying on the quilt as Minnie picks out the bullet with some tweezers (no close ups or flesh on show - all in facial reactions).

MINNIE

It's out.

Donk. We hear the lead bullet hit some tin.

FAGIN

Right, now you need to sew it up. There's a needle and thread in my coat pocket.

MINNIE

What? I ain't performing embroidery on your poop cushions! I've spent enough time down south as it is.

POLLY

I'll be honest with ya. I dunno how much longer I can live like this, stuck in the mud. I'm bored out me nut.

MINNIE

I'm with her. We can't stay here drinking raindrops. We ain't fairies. I've got things living on me that don't belong.

FAGIN

Yeah well, I like me burra and I ain't leaving it. I've had a turf war with ten foxes over this hole.

DODGER

You heard that president, they'll be coming for us.

FAGIN

Naaaah. You know what these Americans are like. They're all talk.

DODGER

But they're gonna bring an army!

FAGIN

What for - a quilt? He ain't gonna raise the troops for a bit of bedding! It's not like we've stolen the crown jewels is it? Relax, alright. Get some kip.

Dodger gets an idea. Suddenly springs into action.

DODGER

Get packing.

FAGIN

Where are we going?

DODGER

London to pull off the biggest job in the world. We're gonna nick the Crown Jewels!

8

INTERCUT: EXT. EPPING FOREST. NIGHT 1

8

INTERCUT: Quick flash of Duff, Blathers, Tom and Police RUNNING through woods with sniffer dogs (off camera).

9

EXT. EPPING FOREST. NIGHT 1

9

The others are all looking at Dodger in disbelief.

FAGIN

Have you been on the fungus or something!?

DODGER

I'm serious. We get our hands on that crown we can kiss the dirt goodbye. Do anything! It's the job to end all jobs! But we can't hang about - we need to nick it before it gets on the Queen's head.

POLLY

How?

DODGER

I dunno yet. That's the fun part.

Suddenly they hear dogs barking in the distance. Police whistles. Fagin stands (intercut with police getting closer).

FAGIN

I can smell the law. Time to go.

Panic. Dodger grabs Minnie's bag, it's heavy, few tankards, the bar pump and some old war medals. Fagin gathers his bits in a hurry.

POLLY

We don't need this toot.

MINNIE

Yes we do. Those are my mementos. They're all I've got left thanks to him!

FAGIN

Me?

MINNIE

You're the one who burned my house down!

FAGIN

Oh don't start this again. We had to fake our own demise! It was the only way to throw the cops off our scent for good!

Dogs getting closer. Panic!

MINNIE

Yeah well now they're back on it!

10

EXT. EPPING FOREST. NIGHT 1

10

DUFF, BLATHERS, CHITLING are marching through woods.

BLATHERS

They've been lying low all this time!

CHITLING

It's not them. I'm telling ya. The Queen's got it wrong.

BLATHERS

How can you be so sure?

CHITLING

Because if they were going to fake their own passing, I'd know. I was in their gang remember. No way would they have done something as big as that without telling me.

DUFF

Maybe none of them liked you and they were trying to shake you off and all.

They march on. This gives Chitling food for thought.

11 **EXT. EPPING FOREST. NIGHT 1** 11

Polly, Dodger, Fagin (limping) and Minnie are all running off with their belongings, trying not to clank.

12 **EXT. EPPING FOREST. NIGHT 1 - MOMENTS LATER** 12

Duff, Blathers, Tom and other officers burst into the scene. Nothing but a smoking fire. Then Tom spots something on the forest floor. It's shrapnel from the bullet. Something else glints in the light. Heart sinking. He feels the betrayal.

TOM

I was wrong. They're alive.

He picks up FAGIN'S BEARD COMB.

TOM (CONT'D)

It's Fagin's.

13 **EXT. LONDON STREET - PAPER STAND. DAY 2** 13

The red, white and blue bunting is up. Pictures of the Queen hanging from windows. JON THE NEWS is at his newspaper stand.

JON THE NEWS

Read all about it! Coronation Fever hits Britain! And Royal Bust Up over coronation seating plans!

14 **EXT. DEREPLIC BUILDING, LONDON. DAY 2** 14

A derelict building in the heart of London. Dodger and Polly poke their heads around the corner. Loose tiles. A real tip.

DODGER

This'll do.

Fagin limps around the corner with Minnie.

POLLY

It's weird being back in the smoke. I tell you summin', there's gonna be a lot of unhappy bunnies out there when they find out we ain't ash.

FAGIN

No one's gonna know we're breathing, don't you worry. All our tracks were well and truly covered.

Fagin reaches into his pocket for his beard comb. It's not there. Oh blow.

15 **EXT. LONDON STREET - NEWSPAPER STAND. DAY 2** 15

JON THE NEWS is at his newspaper stand. He has a new edition of the newspaper.

JON THE NEWS

Read all about it! Dodger's gang fake their own deaths to evade the law! And American President goes nitwits.

16

EXT. SCOTLAND YARD STEPS. DAY 3

16

Empty frame, just a large AMERICAN FLAG filling the frame. VAN BUREN appears, stepping up onto a podium like George C Scott in PATTON. DUFF, BLATHERS, TOM plus several JOURNALISTS are in attendance with note books.

VAN BUREN

At fourteen hundred hours on June 25th, I was robbed by a juvenile bandit known as DODGER. Not only did he steal my personal belongings but also a gift from the American People to her Majesty, Queen Victoria for her coronation. As a result, I am issuing a reward for the capture, and cull of Dodger and his gang, for five hundred dollars. Go get him!

This is music to Tom's ears. Five hundred dollars. As they all leave, Duff turns to Blathers and Chitling.

DUFF

I'm confused.

BLATHERS

What a surprise.

DUFF

How come the Queen's being coronated now? She's been Queen since her uncle copped it.

BLATHERS

Yeah, but it takes months to plan a bash this big. They gotta sort the garments, the grub...

CHITLING

Not to mention the security.

BLATHERS

That's right Chitling. Well done.

Duff gets jealous as Chitling ambles off. He turns to Blathers.

DUFF

Why did you hire him? He'll never be one of the proper boys in blue. He only joined up cos you gave him no choice.

BLATHERS

So what? Since he's been on the force he's helped us bang up scores of crims. He thinks like them see? Now we're always one step in front.

DUFF

Yeah but now he knows Fagin and Dodger are alive. He might give them a heads up.

BLATHERS

Duff, they dumped on him big time. If anything, he'll be even hungrier to catch them. Nah, Chitling is our secret weapon. Believe me.

DUFF

You're so clever. I wish I was you, but without your unhappy marriage, twelve children and chronic breath.

BLATHERS

Thanks Duff.

17

EXT. LONDON STREET - SHOESHINE CORNER. DAY 3

17

Morgan is just setting up his shoeshine box for the day. He yawns as a boot lands on his box. Reveal Dodger.

MORGAN

I thought you were dead.

DODGER

Risen from the cinders.

MORGAN

You smell like a mushroom disaster.

DODGER

Six months in the forest does that to a man. Now, I bet you've buffed a few Beefeaters in your time.

MORGAN

They're my best customers.

DODGER

What do you know about The Crown Jewels?

MORGAN

Sits in the jewel room at the tower of London. Guarded by twelve Beefeaters, day and night.

DODGER

How does a fella become a beefeater?

MORGAN

You have to be a highly trained soldier with a minimum of twenty five years service in the military.

Dodger thinks. FLASH OF - Minnie's medals?

MORGAN (CONT'D)

They've opened the jewel room to the public to celebrate the coronation.

DODGER

You mean it's on display? Anyone can walk in and have a snoop.

MORGAN

Yeah, for a price. Ahem...

DODGER

Oh come off it! My pockets have forgotten what a coin looks like.

MORGAN

I ain't a charity. 'Imformation' costs.

DODGER

Give me a few days and I'll have more than tuppence to give ya.

MORGAN

If you're thinking what I'm thinking, don't even bother. They'll give you the slice.

DODGER

They'll have to catch us first.

18

EST. TOWER OF LONDON. DAY 3

18

Tower of London - the Jewel Room. Maurice the Beefeater on guard.

19

INT. JEWEL ROOM AT THE TOWER. DAY 3.

19

Chief Yeoman Warder, ROYSTON PICKFORD, is seeing off the last visitor. A sign says LAST ENTRY 4.30pm. It's dead on.

ROYSTON

Good day to you.

He is about to take the sign away when Fagin, Minnie, Polly and Dodger enter in stolen clothes.

FAGIN

Four tickets please.

ROYSTON

I'm sorry, I'm afraid we're closed. Last tour was at 4.30.

Fagin is absent mindedly/on purpose polishing his medals.

FAGIN

Oh no. What a terrible shame.

MINNIE

I told you we'd be late. You need to walk faster.

FAGIN

I can't. The old war wound is playing me up anyway. Thank you anyway, sir.

ROYSTON

War wound you say?

FAGIN

'Fraid so. Took one in the rump for King and Country.

Royston notices his medal. He has the same one.

ROYSTON

That's a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

FAGIN

(no idea)

It is.

Royston salutes him. Almost teary eyed with respect.

ROYSTON

Well, well... Where did you serve?

FAGIN

The big one. Waterloo. Still, don't want to trouble you. Come on, let's start our long walk home.

ROYSTON

I'm coming to the end of my legs but I suppose I could squeeze in one more tour, for a comrade in arms.

Royston is showing the late visitors the jewels. Dodger, Polly and Minnie are secretly eyeing up exits and keys.

ROYSTON

And there she is - the Imperial State Crown created especially for Queen Victoria's forthcoming coronation. Interesting fact, John Bridge, the crown jeweller also made an exact replica from tin and glass which sits on her Majesty's waxwork at Madame Tussaud's.

VT: QUEEN VICTORIA'S WAXWORK AT MADAME TUSSAUD'S WITH CROWN

POLLY

Has anyone tried to steal the crown
jewels?

ROYSTON

Once. A rogue Irishman called Colonel
Blood back in 1671. He disguised
himself as a priest and befriended
the Yeoman Guard who opened the cage
for him. Gullible fellow. Luckily I'm
not one of them.

FAGIN

I can tell.

Dodger looks at the six LOCKS around the crown jewels. ZOOM
in on the LOCK SIZE - then SCAN OVER to the BEEFEATER. On his
wrist there is a solid gold chain with a KEY attached.

ROYSTON

I keep the key attached to my
bracelet. Anyone who wanted those
jewels would have to chop my arm
off first. On that cheery note I'm
going to have to bring our tour to
an end, sir.

Fagin takes him aside.

FAGIN

You know, I'd love to talk for longer,
warrior to warrior. There's things we
soldiers have been through that only
we understand.

ROYSTON

Too true.

FAGIN

What time do you knock off? I'd like
to take you for a beverage.

ROYSTON

I'm on night duty. Tell you what,
you could come to me - cup of tea
in the guard's room, as long as
you're gone by ten. That's when
they lock the gates for the
Ceremony of the Keys see. No one
goes in or out after that.

FAGIN

Sounds perfect.

ROYSTON

Tell Maurice on the door that
you're here to see Royston. He'll
let you in.

21

EXT. TOWER OF LONDON. DAY 3.

21

Fagin, Dodger, Polly and Minnie are walking out.

FAGIN

Right, I'm going to do exactly what that Colonel Blood geezer did. Befriend and betray the guard. He won't expect the trick twice.

POLLY

Nice. Bung me in a sack and when the time comes, I'll leap out and knock him out.

FAGIN

No, no, we don't do violence.

MINNIE

There's another way to knock him out that don't involve fists. A tincture. Few drops of laudanum in his favourite tipple. He'll be sparko for a good few hours. Used it on two of me husbands when I wanted a bit of peace. I know exactly where to get some...

22

EXT. LONDON STREET - NEWSPAPER STAND. DAY 3

22

Minnie's kingpin turns out to be Jon the News. He's flogging commemorative Coronation editions of the paper and fireworks.

JON THE NEWS

GET YOUR BUMPER COMMEMORATIVE CORONATION PAPER HERE. INCLUDES FREE MATCHSTICK ABBEY KIT. MATCHES NOT INCLUDED!

MINNIE

Jon, I need to ask you summink on the quiet.

Minnie whispers in his ear.

JON THE NEWS

YES I CAN GET YOU THE LAUDANUM! IF YOU'RE PLANNING ON POISONING SOMEONE LOB THE WHOLE BOTTLE IN!

MINNIE

Keep it down. And I need a box of fireworks as well. Proper bangers.

Jon looks around, then bends down to something hidden behind his stand. Hands her a box.

JON THE NEWS

HERE'S ALL THE THINGS YOU NEED FOR YOUR CRIME! YOU DIDN'T GET THEM FROM ME, RIGHT?

MINNIE

Jon, have you ever tried
whispering?

JON THE NEWS

I AM WHISPERING!

23

EXT. TOWER OF LONDON OUTER WALLS. DAY 3.

23

The gang meet by the tower walls, a small barrow with them.
Minnie hands the laudanum to a nervous Fagin.

FAGIN

Now, I need to be out of the main
gate by TEN O'CLOCK before the
ceremony of the keys...

SPLIT SCREEN - Archive of real Beefeaters enacting the
ceremony of the Keys (re-edited) at night...

FAGIN (CONT'D)

If not I'll be locked in and
there's no escape. Did you get the
fireworks?

MINNIE

Yes.

FAGIN

If I don't reappear by ten, set
them off at the back of the tower.
It'll make the beefeaters think
they're under siege which gives me
enough cover to nip out the front
with the coronet.

They all nod. Fagin takes a deep breath.

DODGER

What's the matter with ya?

FAGIN

I ain't done nothing this dangerous
for yonks. If I muck this up it's
pike time.

POLLY

Yeah, well now you know what it
feels like. We're the mugs who
usually do all your dirty work for
ya. Now get in there.

Polly turns Fagin around and pushes him forward.

24

EXT. TOWER OF LONDON ENTRANCE. NIGHT 3.

24

Fagin approaches the Tower doorway. MAURICE, A STERN
BEEFEATER stands guard. MAURICE spots Fagin's medals.

FAGIN

I'm here to see Royston in the
jewel house?

ROYSTON (O/C)

It's fine Maurice. He's my guest.
War hero. Waterloo. He's come for
counsel.

MAURICE

Very well.

Maurice salutes then searches. All clean. Just a small hip
flask.

MAURICE (CONT'D)

But be sure to be away by 10pm when
we lock the gates.

FAGIN

I will.

In he goes. DODGER is watching all of this from afar.

24 B EXT. TOWER OF LONDON OUTER WALLS. NIGHT 3

24 B

Dodger returns to the others, relieved and excited.

DODGER

He's in... Now, we wait...

25 INT. GUARD ROOM KITCHEN, TOWER OF LONDON. NIGHT 3

25

Fagin is sat with Royston in a small kitchen.

ROYSTON PICKFORD

Waterloo you say? Infantry or
cavalry?

FAGIN

Bit of both.

ROYSTON PICKFORD

How long were you in the war for?

FAGIN

Oh, years.

ROYSTON PICKFORD

I thought it only lasted one
hundred days.

FAGIN

Yes - but it felt like years.

ROYSTON PICKFORD

Where were you cantoned?

Fagin looks blank. No idea what the word means.

FAGIN

All over.

ROYSTON PICKFORD

Blucher made a big difference.

FAGIN

Terrible man.

ROYSTON PICKFORD

He was on your side.

FAGIN

Terrible man if he weren't on your side.

ROYSTON PICKFORD

It's the equine casualties that gets me. Seven thousand perished. What for eh? They didn't choose to fight.

FAGIN

Tragic. I knew so many of them too. Good friends of mine. The equine fellas were solid. We'd spent many nights around the fire. Brave souls. Excellent storytellers.

ROYSTON PICKFORD

(baffled)

Story tellers?

FAGIN

Yes.

ROYSTON PICKFORD

Horses?

Fagin thinks quick.

FAGIN

Apologies, it's the trauma. I get things mixed up. You know. Horses. Humans. One of those things.

ROYSTON PICKFORD

You need a cuppa tea lad. I'll put a brew on.

Finally!

Polly, Minnie and Dodger watch nervously, ducked down by the tower walls. They have the boxes of fireworks with them in the cart. They look at the CLOCK ON THE TOWER. 9.40.

MINNIE

He's cutting it fine ain't he?

DODGER

Something's wrong. I know it.

27

INT. GUARD ROOM KITCHEN, TOWER OF LONDON. NIGHT 3

27

Close on TWO IDENTICAL tin mugs. Royston pours the tea.

ROYSTON PICKFORD

Forgot milk.

Royston turns his back to get the milk. Fagin whips out his hip flask and drips in the laudanum. One, two drips in one cup. Just in time as Royston comes back with the milk.

FAGIN

Just a splash for me.

Royston stirs, lifts it to his lips, is about to drink when -

ROYSTON PICKFORD

Sugar!

Royston whips away both cups and adds sugar. He has his back to Fagin, so Fagin can't tell which cup is which! He brings them back. Now Fagin can't tell them apart. NO!

ROYSTON PICKFORD (CONT'D)

To the regiment!

Fagin picks one cup up. Sniffs it.

FAGIN

Just inhaling the aroma.

Royston is looking. He has to drink it. 50/50 chance. He takes a sip.

FAGIN (CONT'D)

Don't suppose you've got any biccies have ya? To dunk?

ROYSTON PICKFORD

Biscuits! Yes!

He gets up, back to Fagin. Fagin puts three more drops into ROYSTON'S tea just to be sure, flings his own out and pours a fresh cup for himself.

28

EXT. TOWER OF LONDON OUTER WALL. NIGHT 3.

28

Polly, Dodger and Minnie are outside anxious.

29

INT. GUARD ROOM KITCHEN, TOWER OF LONDON. NIGHT 3

29

Fagin is starting to feel drowsy. POV: Slightly blurred vision of Royston. He realises he has drunk from the wrong cup! Royston hasn't drunk his newly drugged cup yet. It's all going horribly wrong.

FAGIN

Your tea's getting cold.

ROYSTON PICKFORD

Oh yeah.

Royston finally drinks the tea. Fagin is relieved.

30

EXT. TOWER OF LONDON OUTER WALLS. NIGHT 3

30

Minnie, Dodger and Polly are now really worried.

POLLY

Five minutes! Come on Fagin!

DODGER

Get the fireworks ready.

31

INT. GUARD ROOM KITCHEN, TOWER OF LONDON. NIGHT 3

31

Royston's head is nodding. Fagin glances at the clock. It's already 9.55!

ROYSTON PICKFORD

I'm so tired all of a sudden.
Sorry. Not much company. You'd better make a move, son...They'll be locking the gates...any...minute...

Before he says 'Now,' Royston finally drops off. Fagin has to act fast, the tiny sip he had has had a bad effect on him. He sloshes water in his face to wake himself as he is getting very woozy. Five minutes until the gate is locked. He hoiks Royston off his chair under his armpits and drags him out of the room.

32

INT. TOWER OF LONDON - CORRIDOR. NIGHT 3.

32

Fagin pops his head out of the doorway, looks left and right then hoiks Royston (body Double?) down the corridor towards the Jewel Room. He gets to the door. It's LOCKED. He lifts ROYSTON'S wrist up to the key hole. His vision is going hazy. It's only a matter of time before he falls asleep too! He turns the key!

33

INT. JEWEL ROOM AT THE TOWER. NIGHT 3.

33

Fagin opens the door with his back to the cage and lays Royston down and turns. His face drops. Reveal an EMPTY cage. A sign reads: *COLLECTION REMOVED FOR CLEANING.* NO! Fagin checks his pocket watch, trying hard to focus - 9.57.

34

EXT. EXTERIOR WALLS, TOWER OF LONDON. NIGHT 3

34

Dodger checks his watch - 9.57! Minnie and Polly are shoving the rockets into the soil.

POLLY

Three minutes until they lock up.

DODGER

That's it. Light the fireworks.
Now!

MINNIE

Stand back or you'll blow your
moosh off!

Minnie lights the fuses as they brace themselves for a bang.
The firework shoots up into the sky and does a tiny squeak.

MINNIE (CONT'D)

That Jon sold me dodgy rockets.

DODGER

Light another one, quick.

He hands her another bunch of fireworks. She strikes a match.-

35

EXT. TOWER OF LONDON COURTYARD. NIGHT 3.

35

MAURICE the BEEFEATER gathers the other few BEEFEATERS.

MAURICE THE BEEFEATER

Almost ten o'clock troops. Time for
the Ceremony of the Keys.

Maurice holds up the key.

36

INT. TOWER OF LONDON GUARD'S ROOM. NIGHT 3

36

Fagin, fighting tiredness, hauls Royston into the Guards' room. He chuck's some more water in his face then slaps himself when suddenly we cut to:

37

EXT. TOWER OF LONDON OUTER WALLS . NIGHT 3.

37

Dodger, Polly and Minnie duck as several bangers explode in the sky. BOOOOOOOOOOM! BANG! CRACK!

38

INT. TOWER OF LONDON COURTYARD. NIGHT 3.

38

The Beefeaters react to the bangs.

MAURICE THE BEEFEATER

We're under attack!

They all run back INTO the tower...

39

INT. GUARD'S ROOM KITCHEN, TOWER OF LONDON. NIGHT 3

39

MAURICE bursts in to find Royston fast asleep in his long johns, woozy.

MAURICE THE BEEFEATER

Royston? Where's your clobber?
(trying to rouse him)
Royston!

Royston wakes momentarily, woozy. Barely able to speak. He clocks his long johns and the empty chair opposite. He works it out - Fagin's war hero chat, the tea. He wakes and shouts:

ROYSTON

Traitor in the Tower!

Then promptly falls asleep again, zonked out. Maurice rushes out.

40

EXT. TOWER OF LONDON COURTYARD. NIGHT 3.

40

THE BEEFEATERS are on alert as they hear the shout.

MAURICE THE BEEFEATER (O.S.)

Traitor in the Tower!

A ROGUE BEEFEATER appears and makes for the EXIT - it's FAGIN in disguise! He stumbles, almost falling over. An **ELDERLY BEEFEATER** confronts him. Thinking quick Fagin says:

FAGIN

There are two of them! One went
that way. Go!

The **ELDERLY BEEFEATER** nods and runs off in the other direction. FAGIN limps out of the main gate, fighting sleep. Door slams.

41

EXT. TOWER OF LONDON OUTER WALLS. NIGHT 3

41

Polly, Dodger and Minnie are going frantic. They are about to do a runner when Fagin appears empty handed.

DODGER

Where's the crown!?

Fagin just about has enough energy to say one thing...

FAGIN

Crown Jewellers...

And he falls out of frame, fast asleep. Bam!

42

EXT. LONDON STREET - NEWSPAPER STAND. DAY 4

42

Jon the News has a new headline on the stand.

JON THE NEWS

READ ALL ABOUT IT! DODGER'S GANG
INVADE THE TOWER OF LONDON IN
ATTEMPT TO STEAL CROWN JEWELS!

43

INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE STATE ROOM. DAY 4

43

Close of the newspaper headline as Van Buren thrusts it in front of The Queen.

VAN BUREN

How in the name of Christmas did this get to the press? It could threaten homeland security.

QUEEN VICTORIA

Well it doesn't matter. Most people in this country can't read anyway.

VAN BUREN

Frankly Ma'am, I wouldn't trust those Beefjerkies in the tower with a cupcake, let alone the crown jewels and as for your police force, I've pushed wheelbarrows with more brains. Therefore, I am appointing myself head honcho. I will personally take charge of security on your big day. I'm doing it *my way*. The Dutch American way.

QUEEN VICTORIA

Is the Dutch American way expensive?

VAN BUREN

Yes.

QUEEN VICTORIA

Then I shall sell the zebra.

44

EXT. LONDON STREET - SHOESHINE CORNER. DAY 4.

44

Dodger sneaks over to the shoe shine corner. A figure in a shoe shine outfit is sitting with his back to Dodger shining a shoe. He turns round and the he is a she. It's TANG. She cannot believe her eyes! She beams!

TANG

Dodger! It's true. You are alive.

Then WHACK! Mood change. She kicks Dodger in the shin!

TANG (CONT'D)

That's for lying!

She kicks him in the other shin as Morgan returns.

TANG (CONT'D)

And that's for leaving me behind.

MORGAN

She's got a temper on her, ain't she? Her buffing's top notch, mind.

TANG

Why? Dodger!?

DODGER

Fagin didn't have a choice. He had to do something big. Make you believe we really were dead or the police would have got the truth out of you. I'm sorry.

MORGAN

Well, I rescued Tang. She's one of my brigade now. She's my sister.

TANG

Yeah, go away.

MORGAN

Don't be rude to him. He's a customer. What d'you want?

DODGER

I need to know who the crown jeweller is. Where's his gaff?

MORGAN

What's in it for me?

DODGER

A slice of the pie.

MORGAN

You already promised me that and I ain't even seen the crust yet.

TANG

Are you going to rob the Crown Jewels?

DODGER

Shhh!

MORGAN

Right, just this once. The crown jeweller is John Bridge. Size 8, black leather brogues. Likes a good, hard buff so he can see his reflection in the upper vamp. I hear he's taken the jewels to be polished at his Blackfriars branch, 42 Ludgate Hill.

DODGER

Thanks.

MORGAN

You'd better hurry up. It won't be there long cos they need it at the Abbey for the rehearsal the day before.

DODGER

Rehearsal?!

TANG

If you're robbing the crown, we're in. Morgan, I want a buff sabbatical.

The POLICE, DUFF, BLATHERS, TOM and a few others have set up a base in the Jerusalem Chamber. Table filled with Abbey maps/floor plans, papers and ink pots, all neatly laid out.

BLATHERS

This will be police HQ over the coronation weekend. It's where the Crown Jewels will be kept once they're back from a polish -

Van Buren bursts in, mid-sentence.

VAN BUREN

Take a hike. Dutch Uncle Sam is taking charge.

He sweeps everything off the table with a CLANG.

VAN BUREN (CONT'D)

This is war. Helmet up boys.

46

INT. DERELICT BUILDING. DAY 4.

46

Fagin is STILL asleep dressed as a Beefeater. Polly and Minnie loom over him as Minnie prods him.

POLLY

What kinda plum drugs *himself*?

They hear footsteps - attack mode - it's only Dodger.

DODGER

You ready?

POLLY

What for?

DODGER

We're going to steal the crown ourselves and be back by the time he wakes up. Oh and I found this...

Reveal a scowling Tang.

DODGER (CONT'D)

Watch your shins.

47

EXT. RUNDLE AND BRIDGE JEWELLERS. DAY 4

47

Cue montage, split screen, Dodger heist style. MAURICE the BEEFEATER stands guard with his pike at the front door.

DODGER V.O

So they've taken the crown to the jewellers ahead of the coronation for a spit and polish....

48

INT. RUNDLE AND BRIDGE JEWELLERS BACK ROOM. DAY 4

48

Tight close up of THE CROWN being polished delicately by JOHN BRIDGE. Next to it is the ROYAL WOODEN CROWN BOX. This is Intercut with DODGER relaying his plan (Fagin still asleep!)

DODGER

We'll nick it on the way to Westminster Abbey for the rehearsal. That's when it's at its most nickable. Once it gets to the Abbey it'll be security central and we won't be able to get near it.

49

EXT. RUNDLE AND BRIDGE JEWELLERS. DAY 4.

49

Dodger is having his shoes shined by Morgan. Dodger is facing away from the Jewellers. Morgan is keeping an eye on the action at the door.

DODGER (V.O.)

There are only five paces from the door to the road where the armoured carriage will be stationed. We miss those, we miss our chance.

BEEFEATERS are waiting to accompany the crown to a secure looking horse drawn carriage. John Bridge emerges from the front door with the WOODEN BOX containing the crown.

MORGAN

(hushed)

He's coming out now.

Whip across the street:

JOHN BRIDGE

Remember, No one else is permitted to touch the crown!

Back to Morgan who nods at POLLY and TANG who are hovering on a corner, dressed as smart ladies with parasols.

MORGAN

(to Dodger, hushed)

Here we go.

MORGAN (CONT'D)

(to Dodger)

Now.

Bridge gets in to the carriage and shuts the door. An innocent looking Polly appears at the window of the carriage.

POLLY

Excuse me sir, is this yours? I think you dropped it.

She holds up a tatty little pocket watch. Bridge examines it. As he does so we see Dodger open the door on the other side and slide the box out. MORGAN nods at MINNIE who at that moment, timed to perfection, walks past pushing a BABY CARRIAGE. Dodger dumps the box INSIDE THE BABY CARRIAGE. Minnie unhurriedly walks on as Dodger disappears.

JOHN BRIDGE

No, that tat doesn't belong to me.

She walks on, as he turns back to the carriage. The box has gone!

JOHN BRIDGE (CONT'D)
The box!!! It's gone. You boy! Shoe
shine?

MORGAN
Me sir?

JOHN BRIDGE
Did you see what happened?

MORGAN
Me sir, no sir. Not a thing sir.
Sorry sir. Terrible, terrible.

50 EXT. BLACKFRIARS SIDE ALLEY. DAY 4

50

Dodger, Polly, Tang and Minnie hurry along with the box in the baby carriage. They did it!

51 EXT. DEREPLIC BUILDING, LONDON. DAY 4.

51

Fagin starts to stir. He wakes up to see Dodger, Tang, Polly, Morgan and Minnie waiting with big grins on their faces.

DODGER
Morning.

Fagin spots Tang.

FAGIN
Am I dreaming or is that my little
scorpion?

She smiles and kicks him in the shins!

TANG
I wish I was a scorpion cos I'd
sting you and I'd kill you.

MORGAN
She works for me now.

FAGIN
(rubbing shin)
Good luck with that mate.

They all grin.

FAGIN (CONT'D)
I don't know why you're all beaming
for. We're bleedin' crownless.

DODGER
I wouldn't be so sure about that.
Look what we nicked from the Crown
Jeweller.

Dodger hands the box to Fagin...

FAGIN

Oh my dears! No! How did you do it?

DODGER

It was a doddle weren't it.

Fagin picks the lock. Big tension. Close on box opening. Faces ready to be dazzled. And then their faces fall. There is nothing but sand inside.

52

EXT. STREETS NEAR WESTMINSTER ABBEY. DAY 4.

52

An unassuming box is being pushed on a dirty cart by a CHIMNEY SWEEPS. Reveal the sweep is BLATHERS in DISGUISE.

53

INT. WESTMINSTER ABBEY JERUSALEM CHAMBER. DAY 4.

53

Van Buren is energetically pacing. John Bridge is anxiously pacing. Duff looking into space. Tom is on guard. Blathers hurries in with the box.

BLATHERS

Here it is. Got it, safe and sound.

VAN BUREN

I knew it would work. Good job Officer.

BLATHERS

It's Chief of Police, actually.

John Bridge checks inside the box. Nods as he inspects it.

JOHN BRIDGE

All present and correct.

VAN BUREN

Do we have any intelligence as to who stole the box?

JOHN BRIDGE

My back was turned. I was distracted by two young ladies with a pocket watch.

BLATHERS

Did they look like this?

Blathers holds up two police sketches of Polly and Tang.

JOHN BRIDGE

Yes! The very same!

BLATHERS

Dodger's gang.

VAN BUREN

Well these criminals have got nothing but a sandcastle to show for it.

TOM

This won't put Dodger off you know.
He'll be even more set on nicking
it. He loves an audience and
this'll be his biggest yet. I know
how his mind works.

VAN BUREN

And you are?

TOM

PC Chitling reporting sir.

VAN BUREN

You think he'd risk death robbing
the jewels at the *Coronation*?

TOM

I'm certain of it. He'll find a
way. He's probably planning it as
we speak.

Van Buren sweeps everything off the table again, springing
into action. Behind him, Duff picks it all back up again.

VAN BUREN

OFFICERS!

They all crowd in.

VAN BUREN (CONT'D)

I want you to check over every
stone from the steeple to the
crypt! I want everybody who enters
quizzed, frisked and probed. I want
every door guarded 24/7 from this
instant! There'll be no way in or
out for Dodger!

He swipes everything off the table again and strides out.
Blathers looks put out.

54

EXT. DERELICT BUILDING, LONDON. DAY 4.

54

Fagin, Morgan, Minnie, Tang and Polly are slumped, dejected.

FAGIN

It's a decoy. No wonder it was a
doddle.

MORGAN

This is a joke! I lost half a day
on the leathers for a palm full of
sand!?

DODGER

We can't give up now. We're so
close! We got away with it twice!

POLLY

I'm so up to here with your positive
spins on things. It's over.

MORGAN

Yeah I'm out. See ya.
(to Tang)
Come on.

Tang and Morgan leave. Door slam. Dodger still tries.

DODGER

Third time lucky?

FAGIN

One of the main rules in the
criminal rule book - know when to
throw in the flannel. We're no
spring chickens anymore Dodger.

DODGER

I'm fifteen!

FAGIN

Exactly, that's middle-aged for
Paupers like you two. You'll be
lucky if you make thirty.

DODGER

That's why we have get that crown!
It will change our lives once and
for all. We'll nick it from the
abbey. It's just a big church! They
let anyone in who looks nice.

POLLY

Not on coronating day they don't.
It's toffs only. There'll be more
fur in there than a teddy bear's
picnic.

MINNIE

Yeah and beefeaters and coppers on
every door hole.

DODGER

There won't be at the rehearsal.

FAGIN

What rehearsal?

DODGER

That's why the crown is there.
There's a full run through of the
whole thing tomorrow night. Just
the Queen, top vicar bod or summin.
If we could pinch the crown then
we're laughing.

FAGIN

How do we know what goes on at a coronation? I didn't get invited to the last one. I think the Prince of Persia took my place.

MINNIE

Wait! It'll be in the paper!

She scuffles around for the CRUMPLED NEWSPAPER that JON THE NEWS hid the laudanum in. There it is!

MINNIE (CONT'D)

Fagin, you can read can't ya, since you've been in the monkhouse?

FAGIN

I can only read Latin.

MINNIE

What?

FAGIN

Just kidding.

He flicks through. Inside is the timetable, ORDER OF SERVICE and a fold out map of WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

FAGIN (CONT'D)

It's all here. Timetable, order of service. Exactly when and where the crown moves. Well done!

POLLY

But if you steal it, there'll be a big empty space.

DODGER

We'll swap it with *another* crown.

POLLY

What other crown?

DODGER

Madame Tussaud's, remember.

FAGIN

Yes! The boring Beefeater said there's a bogus crown on the waxy bonce of the monarch! Well, what are you waiting for? Go and get it.

Various Kings and Queens in Madame Tussaud's. In the centre is the new exhibit - Queen Victoria on a throne in her new crown. (Using the real actor, with freeze frame as her own waxwork). We hear a smash off camera, glass breaking. Dodger tiptoes through and lifts the crown off the waxwork and runs.

Dodger hands over the replica crown to Fagin who inspects it.

POLLY

I can't tell the difference.

FAGIN

Apart from the fact it's about ten pounds lighter. The moment she puts it on it's bye bye baby.

DODGER

But she won't put it on until the *actual coronation* remember?

POLLY

Oh yeah - and by the time she does we'll be long gone and her real crown'll be soup.

DODGER

We just need to work out how, and when, to do the switch.

The gang are puzzled as they brainstorm.

FAGIN

It says 'After the procession, the crown is kept on the altar during the ceremony,' here -

He points to the spot on the map.

MINNIE

That's right in front of her Maj and the big Bishop.

FAGIN

No one is ever going to be able to get up there and swap it over without being seen. This ain't gonna work. Forget it.

POLLY

Go over it one more time. It'll be staring us in the face.

MINNIE

Yeah, so the Queen walks in, then what?

Fagin sighs as he starts to read again.

FAGIN

The first act is The Recognition. A symbolic formality when the nobles have to check the monarch isn't an imposter and is the actual kosher Queen.

(MORE)

FAGIN (CONT'D)

No one can take their eyes off her
as she turns to all four corners of
the compass, North, East, South and
West...

(realisation, this is it!)

...and that my boy is when you do
the swap. All eyes are on *her*, not
the crown!

57	OMITTED	57
58	OMITTED	58
59	<u>EXT. WESTMINSTER ABBEY. DAY 5</u>	59

Blathers is patrolling the abbey with Duff.

BLATHERS

Who does that Van Buren think he
is?

DUFF

I think he thinks he's the
President.

BLATHERS

He *is* the President.

DUFF

Now what role have you assigned for
me sir, when the Queen arrives?
Would you like me to escort her
personally up the aisle?

BLATHERS

No. I've got just the place for
you. A very important place.

He scribbles an X on a map and hands it to Duff.

DUFF

(puffed up)

Oh good. Thank you sir. You can
rely on me sir.

Duff hurries off to find where he's going to be standing.

60	<u>EXT. STREET NEAR WESTMINSTER ABBEY. DAY 5.</u>	60
----	--	----

Polly, Fagin, Dodger and Minnie are about to disperse for the
big job. They all look nervous. Dodger has a sack.

FAGIN

They won't be starting the rehearsal
for a good few hours so we've got
time to get everything sorted.

Tom passes on patrol in the background, unseen by the gang.

FAGIN (CONT'D)

Right - if it all goes squiffy I'll ring the bells.

DODGER

The nearest exit is the East door.
Whoever's on that get rid of them.

Fagin, Polly and Dodger stride off.

61

EXT. WESTMINSTER ABBEY - MAIN ENTRANCE (WEST DOOR). DAY 5. 61

Fagin, Polly and Dodger approach disguised as bell cleaners. Polly is wearing a flat cap so we can't see her hair. The Archbishop is pacing, waiting for the Queen.

FAGIN

We've come about the bells.

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

Bells?

FAGIN

Great big metal things that go bong.

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

I know what bells are. I can't let anyone in. Strictest orders.

FAGIN

But we've come to service them. We need to burnish the clappers to a regal luster.

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

I wasn't told anything about any bell service by the Dean of Westminster.

FAGIN

We was pre-booked months ago. We do all the big God houses. I've just come from lubricating the Bow bells as it goes. That was a job I can tell ya. All the uvulas had gone off and the yokes were an embarrassment. We need to give the ten bells upstairs a once over ahead of the big day see?

DODGER

The Queen don't want a dodgy peal on her coronation.

POLLY

Yeah, we did the last Ring for the King. We do all of them. It ain't a coronation without the ding dongs!

Duff passes behind on his way to find his post. They all look away hoping he doesn't recognise them.

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY
Well in that case, proceed with
your duties.

The Archbishop unlocks and opens the door them.

FAGIN
Cheers mate. You're a friend of the
bells.

They go inside. The Archbishop is proud of being a friend of the bells. Dodger, Fagin and Polly breathe a sigh of relief.

62

INT. WESTMINSTER ABBEY. DAY 5. (CONTINUOUS)

62

Dodger, Polly and Fagin walk through the nave. For the first time they feel the true enormity of the job. A fanfare sounds.

FAGIN
They must have brought the
rehearsal forward!

Fagin whips out the map, glances at it for a millisecond and shoves it in his pocket. They pass a door with a sign reading 'VESTRY' they enter...

FAGIN (CONT'D)
In here....

63

INT. VESTRY - WESTMINSTER ABBEY. DAY 5 (CONTINUOUS)

63

There are cassocks and choir outfits hanging up. Polly takes off her cap to reveal an angelic boy's basin cut. Fagin grabs a couple of choir outfits off the pegs and chuck's them to Dodger and Polly as they shove them over their clothes.

64

EXT. SOUTH DOOR WESTMINSTER ABBEY (BACK). DAY 5

64

Duff has a little map of the abbey with his post marked up. He is looking for it.

DUFF
Just round about...

To his dismay he is stationed on the back door with zero view of the guests arriving.

DUFF (CONT'D)
Here.

He is facing a brick wall and will see nothing.

DUFF (CONT'D)
Oh.

65

INT. VESTRY WESTMINSTER ABBEY VESTRY. DAY 5

65

Back in the vestry...

POLLY
How do we look?

FAGIN
Like a pair of cherubs. Got your
nappies on?

They lift up the gowns to reveal sack slings. Fagin takes the replica crown out of his bag, hidden under cloths and bell ringing polish. He hands it to Polly who places it in the sling, hidden under her gown.

FAGIN (CONT'D)
Can you walk?

POLLY
I can waddle.

FAGIN
Good enough. I'll be watching from
the bell tower. I spot anything
hooky I'll ring the bell as a
warning and we ABORT. Understood?

They duck out, Fagin following.

65A

INT. WESTMINSTER ABBEY. DAY 5.

65A

Dodger and Polly go one way, Fagin the other.

65B

INT. STEPS - WESTMINSTER ABBEY. DAY 5.

65B

Fagin hurries up some steps into the bell tower.

66

EXT. MAIN WESTMINSTER ABBEY ENTRANCE (WEST). DAY 5

66

The Archbishop is waiting. A couple of STRESSED PARTICIPANTS/CHOIRBOYS/CLERICS are running up to the West Door, pulling on their robes/hats etc. They didn't expect to be called so early in the day.

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY
Hurry, Her Majesty will be here any
minute.
(dropping to his knees)
And she's here.

They all drop as the Queen wafts in impatiently with TWO LADIES IN WAITING and A BEEFEATER.

QUEEN VICTORIA
Let's whip through this. I've got a
party to go to.

66A

INT. BELL TOWER - WESTMINSTER ABBEY. DAY 5.

66A

Fagin enters. He checks out his view through the floor boards of the nave far, far below. He can see and hear everything.

67

INT. WESTMINSTER ABBEY NAVE. DAY 5. (CONTINUOUS)

67

Dodger and Polly skulk behind a pillar, blending in as lost choirboys. They see the Queen enter the Abbey. Panic.

DODGER

She's early!

POLLY

If we don't get to the altar we'll miss our moment!

67a

INT. WESTMINSTER ABBEY JERUSALEM CHAMBER. DAY 5

67a

Meanwhile in the Jerusalem Chamber. Blathers, Van Buren and the Beefeaters are guarding the crown jewels when Tom knocks and enters.

TOM

The Queen is on site.

VAN BUREN

Good. Get to your position.

TOM

Yes sir.

68

INT. WESTMINSTER ABBEY NAVE/ALTAR. DAY 5.

68

Dodger and Polly see the table in front of altar - empty. They see their hiding places - two rood screens either end of the altar. They check no one is watching and hide behind the screens - and wait just as the Archbishop makes his way up the nave...

Queen Victoria is waiting by the entrance to the Nave, the ladies in waiting holding her ermine gown. The Archbishop is now WAY UP at the ALTAR the WHOLE LENGTH of the abbey, so he has to shout.

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

Right, let's go from the start of the ceremony and cue the fanfare. State Trumpeters of the Royal Calvary! This indicates that the Queen has arrived.

QUEEN VICTORIA

What?

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

I said LET'S GO FROM THE START of the ceremony. So leading the procession will be the Church of Wales and all of their Deans...

Silence. The Queen looks around.

QUEEN VICTORIA
Where are they?

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY
Stuck in traffic.

QUEEN VICTORIA
Oh look, can we just skip to the
bit when I sit on the throne?

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY
Sorry ma'am...we really must do
this properly.

QUEEN VICTORIA
I am the queen - I say we skip.

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY
But...

QUEEN VICTORIA
Skip!

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY
(flicking through book)
Very well, so in come the Church of
Wales with the rod of Wales,
followed by the Bishop of London.
Let's imagine that's happened.

QUEEN VICTORIA
What?

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY
I SAID LET'S IMAGINE THAT'S
HAPPENED. Then the flag bearers.
Right, then the Crown Jeweller and
the crown.

QUEEN VICTORIA
Hurry up Bridge, you're on.

JOHN BRIDGE
The crown!

Blathers, Van Buren and a couple of Beefeaters are guarding the Crown Jewels as Bridge bursts in.

JOHN BRIDGE
It's our bit. They've skipped
ahead. I will bear the crown. We
are some men down, Mr President,
would you mind carrying the
ceremonial sword?

VAN BUREN
Yup. With pleasure.

Van Buren takes the sword - he loves it.

JOHN BRIDGE
(to Blathers)
You will convey the sceptre.

BLATHERS
It would be an honour...

And they all walk out in formation.

70 **INT. WESTMINSTER ABBEY BELL TOWER. DAY 5.**

70

Fagin is watching, worried.

FAGIN
They're skipping whole chunks...

71 **INT. WESTMINSTER ABBEY NAVE. DAY 5.**

71

The crown procession is making its way down the aisle. Bridge proudly walks with the crown on a cushion. To Dodger and Polly's horror they see Blathers and Van Buren in the procession. Bridge places the crown on the altar.

JOHN BRIDGE
I would just like to reiterate that
it is forbidden for anyone to touch
the crown, with the exception of
the Archbishop of Canterbury,
myself and her Majesty, The Queen.

The Archbishop of Canterbury makes a point of touching it.
The Queen is still at the back....

QUEEN VICTORIA
Is this my bit?

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY
Yes!

QUEEN VICTORIA
Go!

The Queen virtually sprints up as she wants this over with fast. Her LADIES IN WAITING rush to keep up...

71B **INT. WESTMINSTER ABBEY NAVE. DAY 5.**

71B

The Queen passes the CHOIRBOYS who start to sing:

CHOIRBOYS
(singing)
Vivat! Vivat! Vivat Regina
Victoria!

The (UNSEEN) ORGAN PLAYER has to play really fast! The Queen runs up and sits on the CORONATION CHAIR.

QUEEN VICTORIA
Now what?

72 EXT. SOUTH DOOR WESTMINSTER ABBEY (BACK). DAY 5. 72

Duff is staring at the wall.

73 INT. WESTMINSTER ABBEY NAVE. DAY 5 73

Back at the rehearsal. The Archbishop stands in front of the Altar and reads from his big red book.

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY
The grace of our lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the fellowship
of the holy spirit....

QUEEN

SKIP!

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY
Erm...yes ma'am...

He turns over a few pages...

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY (CONT'D)
We are gathered to celebrate the
life of our nation -

QUEEN

SKIP!

The Archbishop nods and skips one page... Deep breath...

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY
Dearly beloved, we-

QUEEN

SKIP!

The Archbishop skips one, two, three pages...

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY
Lord -

QUEEN

SKIP!

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY
Now a song from the Welshman...

In steps BRYN MISCHIEF, a large man who warbles two lines.

QUEEN

SKIP!!

BRYN sulks and walks off.

74 OMITTED 74

75 INT. WESTMINSTER ABBEY - NAVE. DAY 5 75

Back to the Queen.

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

Now it is time for the Recognition,
this is where the Monarch has to be
officially recognised by each point
of the compass...

Over to: Dodger and Polly exchange glances - this is IT.
Polly takes the replica crown out from her sling. The
Archbishop and The Queen face the ALTAR.

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY (CONT'D)

I will repeat the same speech three
times, to East, West, South and
North.

The Queen huffs.

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY (CONT'D)

I here present unto you Queen
Victoria, your undoubted Queen,
wherefore all you have come this
day to do your homage and service,
are you willing to do the same?

STRAGGLY RANDOM VOICES
God Save the Queen.

Trumpet fanfare. Dodger and Polly ready themselves. They have
the length of the Archbishop's declarations to make the swap.

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

We shall now turn to the West. All
turn please!

THE CONGREGATION ALL TURN TO FACE WEST (AWAY FROM THE ALTAR /
CROWN, DODGER and POLLY). THE ARCHBISHOP repeats the
declaration...

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY (CONT'D)

I here present unto you Queen
Victoria, your undoubted Queen,
wherefore all you have come this
day to do your homage and service,
are you willing to do the same?

Meanwhile, behind them, in one seamless move, Polly and
Dodger walk in front of the crown. Dodger LIFTS the REAL ONE,
just as POLLY places the FAKE ONE in its place. DODGER and
POLLY are back behind the ROOD screens, now on opposite ends
just as we hear the end of the declaration:

ALL
God Save the Queen.

Dodger shoves the REAL CROWN in the HOIST under HIS gown.
Trumpet fanfare.

QUEEN VICTORIA
Skip!

76

INT. WESTMINSTER ABBEY BELL TOWER. DAY 5.

76

From his vantage point Fagin sees Dodger and Polly do the swap perfectly. He smiles! YES!

76A

EXT. SOUTH DOOR WESTMINSTER ABBEY (BACK). DAY 5.

76A

Duff is bored on the door. Yawns. Time has passed...

77

INT. ALTAR - WESTMINSTER ABBEY - NAVE. DAY 5.

77

The rehearsal is nearly at an end. The Queen is wearing the GOLD GOWN and HOLDING THE TWO SCEPTRES.

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY
...Justice and Mercy may be seen in
all the earth...

He bows. She yawns. Dodger and Polly still hidden. They're bored too.

QUEEN VICTORIA
Is it nearly done?

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY
It's just the moment of crowning.

QUEEN VICTORIA
Finally.

The Archbishop lifts the crown from the cushion. The Queen shuffles in the Chair of St. Edward. Will he notice?

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY
(reading)
King of Kings and Lord of Lords,
Bless, we beseech Thee, this crown
and so sanctify thy servant
Victoria, upon whose head this day
thou dost place it as a signature
of Royal Majesty...

The Archbishop holds the crown high above the Queen's head.

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY (CONT'D)
And this is the point where I will
crown the Queen. Naturally, we will
save that blessed moment for tomorrow.

QUEEN VICTORIA
Wait! I don't want to skip it. Put
it on.

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY
But Ma'am -

QUEEN VICTORIA
Hush! Put it on! I've been sat here
bored out of my brains on this ugly
chair for hours. At least let me
try the crown on.

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY
Very well.

Dodger and Polly look panicked. The Archbishop lowers the crown onto the Queen's head. It sits there for a moment.

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY (CONT'D)
Shall I put it back now Ma'am?

QUEEN VICTORIA
Wait! Something's not right... It's not heavy enough. I know the weight of my own crown and *this* is not it.

She takes it off and examines it. She looks inside and pulls something out - a small label.

QUEEN VICTORIA (CONT'D)
'Property of Madame Tussaud's' What have you done with my crown?
Where's my crown? THIS IS A FAKE!

Reaction from all in the abbey.

QUEEN VICTORIA (CONT'D)
SOMEONE HAS STOLEN MY CROWN! LOCK ALL THE DOORS! SEARCH THE BUILDING!

78

EXT. VARIOUS - WESTMINSTER ABBEY. DAY 5

78

SHOTS OF BOLTS on the doors sliding across! SLAM! THUNK! The Beefeater Warders raise their PIKES. **THERE IS NO WAY OUT.**

79

EXT. SOUTH DOOR WESTMINSTER ABBEY (BACK). DAY 5

79

Duff is still staring at the wall.

80

INT. WESTMINSTER ABBEY NAVE. DAY 5

80

Dodger and Polly are still hiding. What are they going to do? John Bridge is in a panic.

JOHN BRIDGE
Ma'am I don't understand! The crown has not left my sight!

Then Dodger goes to escape, but knocks over the screen. It falls down exposing him.

QUEEN VICTORIA
That's him! That's DODGER!

EVERYONE turns to DODGER. VAN BUREN points.

VAN BUREN
Seize him! Quilt thief!

Blathers spots Polly.

BLATHERS
And her! The little rat girl!

81 INT. WESTMINSTER ABBEY BELL TOWER. DAY 5. 81

Fagin sees everything and plan B kicks in as pushes the bells and they start ringing throughout the city.

82 INT. WESTMINSTER ABBEY NAVE. DAY 5 82

At the sound of the BELLS RINGING, everyone looks up momentarily diverted by the din. This gives DODGER and POLLY a split second to RUN! Dodger sees steps down to another section of the abbey.

VAN BUREN
Go!

83 EXT. SOUTH DOOR WESTMINSTER ABBEY (BACK). DAY 5 83

Duff is still standing blank. Not reacting to the bells at all.

84 EXT. NEAR THE EAST DOOR. WESTMINSTER ABBEY. DAY 5 84

Minnie hears the bells. Panic. She scans around, wondering how to do this.

TANG (O.S.)
Shoeshine! Coronation shoeshine!

She spots Tang nearby with her buffing box. She runs up to her.

MINNIE
Tang! I need your help! Now!

84A EXT. EAST DOOR. WESTMINSTER ABBEY. DAY 5 84A

Tang and Minnie run up. A POLICEMAN is stationed on the door with his back to them, looking inside

MINNIE
Excuse me sir.

TANG
Fancy a coronation buff?

The policeman turns round. It's TOM! Off their shocked faces.

85 EXT. SOUTH DOOR WESTMINSTER ABBEY (BACK). DAY 5 85

Duff is still standing blank suddenly, a delayed reaction to the bells - he runs in, leaving his post in a panic.

86 INT. WESTMINSTER ABBEY. DAY 5 86

Dodger and Polly run through the abbey. They are looking for a way out when it dawns on Dodger - he's not waddling! He lifts his cassock. The sling has snapped and the crown has gone!

DODGER
I've lost the crown!

87

INT. WESTMINSTER ABBEY. DAY 5

87

ANOTHER SECTION of the Abbey as DUFF runs in with his truncheon. He sees the CROWN on the ground!

DUFF
I've found the crown!

BLATHERS O/C
Where are you?

DUFF
I don't know!

88

INT. WESTMINSTER ABBEY. DAY 5

88

Dodger and Polly turn as they hear Duff's voice echo through the abbey.

89

INT. WESTMINSTER ABBEY. DAY 5

89

Duff goes to retrieve the crown, then pauses as he hears a voice in his head:

JOHN BRIDGE V/O
It is forbidden for anyone to touch the crown with the exception of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Crown Jeweller and her Majesty, the Queen.

Duff freezes.

DUFF
Oh no - help! Archbishop! Crown Jeweller! I can't pick it up!

FAGIN (O.S.)
No, but I can!

Reveal Fagin who whips up the crown and runs off with it.

FAGIN (CONT'D)
See ya!

DUFF
It's forbidden! No!!!

But Fagin has already disappeared.

90

INT. WESTMINSTER ABBEY. DAY 5

90

Dodger and Polly run around another corner to find themselves down yet another dead end. When they turn back a figure blocks their path - a police officer. IT'S TOM.

DODGER
TOM!? You're a copper!?

TOM

Shhh! Don't worry. Come with me. I know a way out.

POLLY

You've gotta be joking.

VAN BUREN O/C

I want that boy found, captured and destroyed!!!

TOM

Hurry up before it's too late.
Trust me.

Dodger and Polly follow Tom who opens a door.

TOM (CONT'D)

Quick, through there...

They walk through the door...

91

INT. WESTMINSTER ABBEY, NAVE. DAY 5.

91

Dodger and Polly follow Tom and find themselves BACK IN THE NAVE! They are SURROUNDED. TOM has betrayed them. MINNIE and TANG are also cuffed and on their knees.

DODGER

Tom! Why d'you do it Tom?

Dodger is flat. Hurt and in shock. Tom can't meet their eye for the shame.

QUEEN VICTORIA

This is High Treason, punishable by death.

Dodger and Polly look terrified.

QUEEN VICTORIA (CONT'D)

Where's my crown?

FAGIN (O.S.)

It's here.

Reveal Fagin up high above the organ. He holds the crown over the ledge. It's a massive drop.

FAGIN (CONT'D)

Let them all go or I'll drop the dazzler.

The Queen/Crown Jeweller gasp.

QUEEN VICTORIA

NO! Very well. You shall have your swap.

Relieved reaction from Dodger THEN Van Buren appears behind Fagin, poking him in the back with his pistol.

VAN BUREN
This time I won't miss.

QUEEN VICTORIA
If they like the crown so much they
can live with it. Forever.

92 EST. TOWER OF LONDON - TRAITOR'S GATE. DAY 6. 92

93 INT. PRISON CELL, TOWER OF LONDON. DAY 6. 93

A damp, nasty caged cell. Straw on the floor, the sound of rats scurrying. Fagin, Dodger, Polly, Minnie and Tang are shoved inside by Royston the beefeater. Royston scowls at them.

FAGIN
Got any tea?

ROYSTON
Very funny.

The cage door slams shut. The key goes in the lock. The sound of bolts being slid across. This really is it.

94 INT. JERUSALEM CHAMBER, WESTMINSTER ABBEY. DAY 6 94

Van Buren enters, hero of the hour. The officers and beefeaters applaud him (with the exception of Blathers).

VAN BUREN
And now the reward money!

He pulls a stack of dollars out of his pocket. Tom stands by, astonished. Blathers is watching, smiling.

VAN BUREN (CONT'D)
Five hundred dollars. All yours
champ.

TOM
Thank you sir.

VAN BUREN
You've done your country proud
Chitling. There's a room for you at
the White House any time.

TOM
Yes sir. Very kind of you sir.

VAN BUREN
Well, I hope you British clowns
have learned to govern a country
the best way - the Dutch American
way.

Van Buren swans out to more applause. Everyone filters out. As Tom tries to leave Blathers stops him.

BLATHERS

Hand it over.

TOM

Eh?

BLATHERS

You heard! Now.

TOM

But I earned it!

BLATHERS

Don't make me laugh. You've been on the force five minutes. I've spent years looking for Dodger. I gave you this job. That's my money.

TOM

No.

BLATHERS

Give it to me now or I'll fit you up for every unsolved crime from Vauxhall to Vange.

TOM

That's not fair!

BLATHERS

Fair? I'll tell you what's not fair - I've worked my pods off making an honest living my whole life and you, an ex con, end up richer than I do. Nah. That's my money mate.

He holds out his hand. Tom has no option but to hand it over. Blathers pockets it and walks out. Tom is gutted and furious.

95

EXT. LONDON STREET. DAY 7.

95

Jon the News is at his news stand.

JON THE NEWS

AMERICAN PRESIDENT SAVES CORONATION
THE DUTCH AMERICAN WAY AND DODGER'S
GANG GET BUMPER LIFE SENTENCE AT
TOWER OF LONDON!

96

INT. WESTMINSTER ABBEY NAVE - THE CORONATION. DAY 7.

96

Tight close up shot of the Archbishop of Canterbury as he places the genuine crown on her head. Queen Victoria is happy with the weight of the crown this time. She nods.

CROWD (O.S.)

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

97

EXT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE. NIGHT 7

97

Fireworks light up the London sky. A royal celebration!

The sound reaches the GANG who are chained at the ankles and wrists. The bolts on the doors slide across. The door opens. It's Tom. Polly runs to punch him but she's chained up and she can't get that far, like a goat on a post.

DODGER

What do you want?

FAGIN

If anyone should be locked up in traitor's gate, it's you. Rattling on your own. I taught you better than that.

TOM

You said you were dead!

FAGIN

Of all the things, Tom! A peeler!

TOM

They gave me a chance. It was that or the noose. You would have done the same.

FAGIN

Never. I don't do deals with coppers.

TOM

I was angry, I wanted revenge.

POLLY

Yeah, well you got that alright. I been boxing rats all night.

TOM

I'm jacking the job in. There are more crooks on this side of the law.

MINNIE

I could've told you that!

TOM

There's one last thing I need to do though, while I'm still a copper.

FAGIN

Oh yeah, and what's that?

TOM

I'm to escort you down Dead Man's Walk to the gallows.

Horrified reaction from the others.

DODGER

They said they were keeping us here for life!

TOM

Too expensive on the tax payer.
Coronation wiped out the coffers
apparently. They're putting you in
the cheapest accommodation there is
- a pauper's grave.

He lifts a set of keys from his pocket and smiles.

TOM (CONT'D)

Or... you can come out the back way
with me. So... which is it to be?

Disbelief from the others. Dodger and Tom share a look. All
is (sort of) forgiven.

99

EXT. TOWER OF LONDON. NIGHT 7

99

The gang run away from the Tower, free! Tom pulls off his
police hat and kicks it into the sky. They tear off into the
night. END ON Dodger and Fagin happily leading the way as
their journey comes to an end.

CAPTION: THE END