



SYNOPSIS – SHORT SUMMARY

Followed by Dramatis Personae and Full Synopsis.

Three very august gentlemen have formed a club based on the maxim of Healthy, Wealthy and Wise. Later, they are joined by a fourth (Witty) club member. Their mission is to discover the whereabouts of a pair of matchless blue emeralds: the Eyes of Christ. The only clues available are buried within the pages of a rare book, called “The English Under The Norman Yoke”.

Also involved in the quest are five schoolboys who journey back in time to fight in the Battle of Hastings in 1066. Under the aegis of their History master, the boys join forces with the gentlemen, finding at last the most superb jewels known to mankind.

In this film, there is an expressed sympathy for both the Normans and for the Saxons, as two of the boys fight as Normans and the other three boys fight for the Saxons.

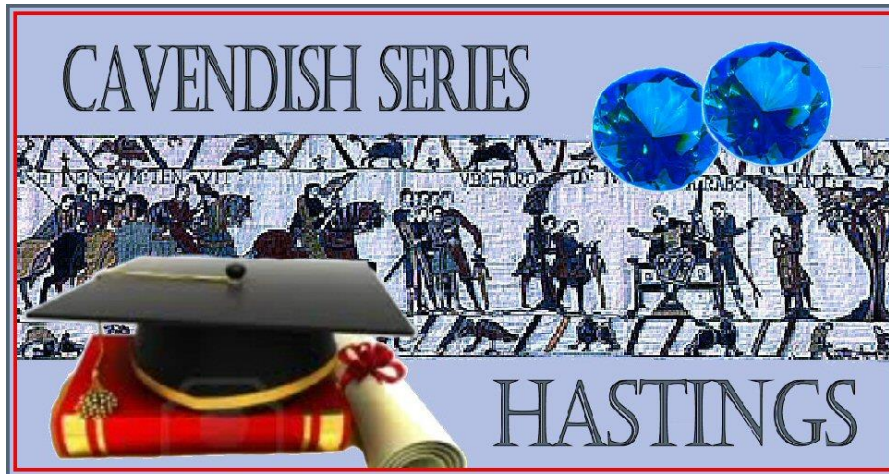
KEYWORDS: time-travel, mystery, humour, action, warfare, history, adult themes, friendships.

© December 2011 Property of QUEENSLAND TRUCKIE'S MATE

THIS DOCUMENT IS SOLELY OWNED BY QUEENSLAND TRUCKIE'S MATE and is intended solely for use as an entertainment. QUEENSLAND TRUCKIE'S MATE retains exclusive and inalienable rights to this document, which may not be reproduced in any way without the express authorisation and permission of QUEENSLAND TRUCKIE'S MATE. Any disclosure, reproduction, copying, distribution, or other dissemination or use of this document or of the intellectual property contained in this document is strictly prohibited without the express authorisation and permission of QUEENSLAND TRUCKIE'S MATE. (www.qld-tm.net.au)

The only two characters in the tale who were actual living people are the two kings: William and Harold. Other than that, all the characters are made up (refer to Dramatis Personae). The events described are all make-believe, except surrounding the battle itself.

The little red book did not exist but might well have done: during the early 20th century, there was a veritable outpouring of adoration for all things English (that is to say, not having Norman origins).



DRAMATIS PERSONAE

"real-life" CHARACTER	"dream sequence" CHARACTER
Geoffrey Bevan	Snarr
George Danton	Roger de Curci
Henry Bell	Oldroyd
Cedric Skeggs	Wegga
Leonard Mortimer	Peter Frankiss
Lord Roy Cavendish	
Lady Elizabeth Cavendish	
Ghost of Samuel Marsden	Sir Digby
Frederic Durrell	
Sandford Durrell	Sir Hubert Attewoode
Prince Kamarisov	Anund the Viking Pirate
Michael Laurestan	William the Conqueror
Sebastian Bevan	
Grandmother Marsden	
Bishop Danton	
Bishop Danton's daughter	
Mrs Bell	
Beckwith	
Sidney Bell	
Mrs Pearl Skeggs	
Reverend Ancaster	
Mrs Verona Ancaster	

© December 2011 Property of QUEENSLAND TRUCKIE'S MATE

THIS DOCUMENT IS SOLELY OWNED BY QUEENSLAND TRUCKIE'S MATE and is intended solely for use as an entertainment. QUEENSLAND TRUCKIE'S MATE retains exclusive and inalienable rights to this document, which may not be reproduced in any way without the express authorisation and permission of QUEENSLAND TRUCKIE'S MATE. Any disclosure, reproduction, copying, distribution, or other dissemination or use of this document or of the intellectual property contained in this document is strictly prohibited without the express authorisation and permission of QUEENSLAND TRUCKIE'S MATE. (www.qld-tm.net.au)

Mr Peabody	
Mr Armitage	
Schoolboy Bodlington	
	King Harold Godwinsson
	Eorl Wegga
	Egil
	Lollie
	Feste the Minstrel
	Wolf Frankiss
	Lord Larchwood
	Sheriff
	Old man in the cottage
	Gaffer at Dover

Minor roles:

Guests at the Christmas party, Rector and masters at the Whitefriar's school, staff at the King Harold Hotel, guests at the Skeggs wake, Bayeux soldiers, maids, servants, schoolboys, carol-singers, policemen at the railway station.

Wegga's brothers, Saxons at Dover, warriors, villagers, knights, lovely dancing maidens, Saxon hooligans, servants in 1066.

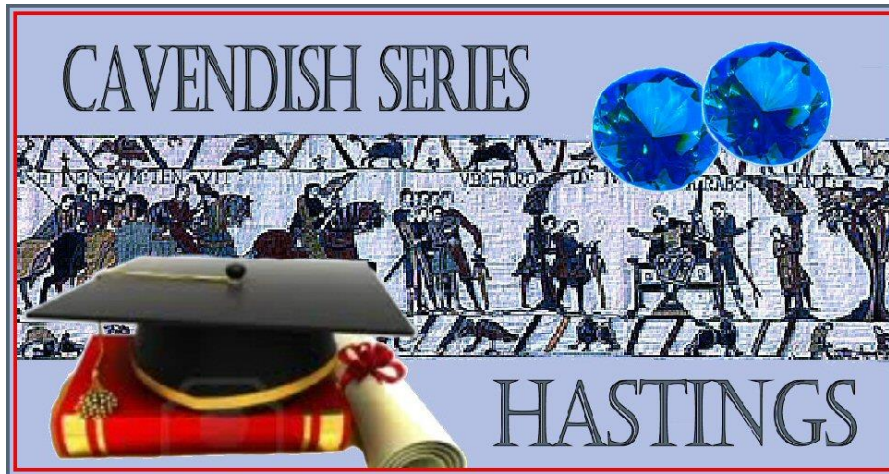
The MAIN CHARACTERS

THE CHARACTERS OF 1928	
Geoffrey Bevan	Actor also plays the role of Snarr. Nicknamed Bovine, or Bove by the other boys. Son of Roy Bevan, Lord Cavendish. Tall, gangly. Begins as a disturbed, angry teenage boy who grows in stature and confidence as the film progresses. He becomes a natural leader and fearless fighter, taking on all the catastrophes raining down upon him with aplomb.
George Danton	Actor also plays the role of Roger de Curci. Son of the Bishop of London. It is with George that the morals of both the 1928 schoolboys and the Normans. His struggles to overcome

	<p>the problems of growing-up provide a light interest.</p> <p>The axe wound in George's left arm received during the Battle of Hastings (in his guise as Roger) becomes a long-running badge of honour, and is one of the few links with the "other place" which the boys possess. George's wound, in fact, proves that they were actually at History's most famous battle.</p>
Henry Bell	<p>Actor also plays the role of Oldroyd. Nicknamed Belfry by his schoolmates. The shortest of the boys. He is insouciant, cheeky and brash. Confident and street-smart.</p>
Cedric Skeggs	<p>Actor also plays the role of Wegga. Nicknamed Treacle. Thickset and muscular. Unfortunately, the experiences of the "other place" and the losses suffered by Wegga weigh too heavily on Cedric. He begins to become introverted and unsure of himself.</p>
Leonard Mortimer	<p>Actor also plays the role of Peter Frankiss. Nicknamed Len. Tall, handsome, ahead of his years. A deep thinker who appears to have grown up too quickly. He is deeply affected by what he considers his "poor show" in the other times.</p>
Ghost of Samuel Marsden	<p>Actor also plays the role of Sir Digby. A sweet old man who died before his time, and who is forced by Fate to avenge his untimely death at the hands of Dr Eblin.</p>
Frederic Durrell	<p>Nicknamed Freddie by his brother Sandford. A History master at Whitefriar's Boys School, he is a worthy teacher who (luckily for the boys) is prepared to stretch his imagination.</p>
Sandford Durrell	<p>Actor also plays the role of Sir Hubert Attewoode. A marvellous character, brimming with vitality. Hence, he is the "Healthy" element of the Health-Wealthy and Wise Society.</p>

	Prince Kamarisov	Actor also plays the role of Anund the Viking Pirate. He is the "Wealthy" element of the Health-Wealthy and Wise Society. A Russian aristocrat, dripping with diamonds, he is to become another victim of the evil Dr Eblin. Elegant, charming, frail.
	Michael Laurestan	Actor also plays the role of William the Conqueror. He is the "Wise" element of the Health-Wealthy and Wise Society. A cultured gentleman who appears to tolerate the schoolboys.
THE CHARACTERS OF 1066 and following		
	Snarr	Actor also plays the role of Snarr. Heroic, the son of Anund. Brought up a Viking, he was then dumped on Eorl Wegga and Egil, to become their adopted son. Adores Egil, and proves himself a worthy young man both during and after the Conquest.
	Roger de Curci	Actor also plays the role of George Danton. A Norman boy. Again, both as George and as Roger, this character represents the moral high-ground.
	Oldroyd	Actor also plays the role of Henry Bell. His mother and Egil were sisters. He is another son of Anund the Viking, brought up as a Saxon. He becomes an outlaw under the Normans rather than join them (for the good of England) as did the other boys.
	Wegga	Actor also plays the role of Cedric Skeggs. Eorl Wegga and Egil are his parents. He is deeply affected by the loss of his father and 2 elder brothers at Hastings. Valiantly perseveres with his stand that the Normans and Saxons are able to live together harmoniously. But is affected by the suffering of his people, and is eventually ground-down by this.

Peter Frankiss	Actor also plays the role of Leonard Mortimer. A Norman who curries favour at Court for his own advantage. He cared nothing for the misery of the Saxons.
Sir Digby	Actor also plays the role of Grandpa Marsden. A jolly fellow whose character easily switches over to Grandpa Marsden. They are to all intents the same person.
Sir Hubert Attewoode	Actor also plays the role of Sandford Durrell. An Angle who sympathizes with both the Saxons and Normans. He both advises and assists the Conqueror.
Anund the Viking Pirate	Actor also plays the role of Prince Kamarisov. Unlike Kamarisov, Anund is strong, tough, and uncompromising. His quandary is that he left the priceless jewels ("The Eyes of Christ") with a man who is now dead, such that the whereabouts of those precious stones remains a mystery.
William the Conqueror	Actor also plays the role of Michael Laurestan. The Great Man. Here, he is portrayed as a benevolent but firm ruler.



FULL SYNOPSIS

ACT I

Scenario:

Lord Cavendish (Roy Bevan) has a son (Geoffrey Bevan, 16) by a previous marriage (the wife died ten years ago).

His new wife is Elizabeth (Bessie), nee Marsden. They have three children.

It is Boxing Day and the Cavendish family will drive from Pentecost Abbey, Oxford to the home of Mrs Marsden (Bessie's mother). There, the children will open the presents from their own family and from the Marsden relatives.

Bessie's father died in the Greater London Library only three months previously. However, his widow insists that her late husband would have wanted the Boxing Day festivities to go ahead as usual.

Geoffrey is not related to the Marsdens, and would normally be going to his Burnside cousins, much to everyone's relief. The problem is that Geoffrey, now 6 feet tall and gangly, is behaving badly to everyone without favour. He is sour, morose and vile.

Progress:

On Boxing Day 1927, the presents are ferried out to the chauffeur-driven limousine (to the boot), we discover that Geoffrey is a shit, and that an unexpected bout of measles has precluded him from visiting the Burnside cousins. From the Abbey, we travel to the Marsden residence. This will be the

venue for the confrontation between Geoffrey and the late Grandpa Marsden.

Christmas carollers merrily trill an old Norman carol as a stout old maid, wearing a thick coat and scarf and bearing a large plate of mince pies, cakes and biscuits approaches them.

[The tune of "Hey-ho Merry!" will be echoed (ironically) by Egil when we first meet her, and she is singing in the kitchen.]

The Marsden residence is less imposing than Pentecost Abbey.

The Marsdens and Bevans enjoy a muted celebration with customary giving of presents.

Along the way, we learn from Bessie that she has given up hope of ever befriending her stepson Geoffrey. Sebastian believes that the boy's ill-humour could be channelled into something constructive and therapeutic: boxing.

It is Boxing Day 1927.

In the Marsden library, the brooding Geoffrey sits slumped in a big armchair, bored and cheesed-off, before a roaring fire. The angry boy has opened some presents, which sit cast-off beside his chair.

Geoffrey (antisocial and sorry for himself) goes over in his mind the many slights and brow beatings he has endured. Geoffrey vows to get even with his persecutors.

Grandpa Marsden (or rather his ghost as he is dead) appears and gives the ungrateful, churlish Geoffrey a wrapped Christmas present: a little red book called "The English Under The Norman Yoke". Marsden admits to stage-managing Geoffrey's visit to his house as this History book must come to Geoffrey as the only soul able to unlock the secrets contained in the book. Later, Marsden will vaguely mention that the mysterious secret has something to do with gemstones: emeralds.

Marsden goes so far as to suggest that Geoffrey's mother may have died in order that his own daughter Bessie would marry Lord Cavendish, bringing Geoffrey within his (that is Marsden's) ken. Appalled Geoffrey runs from the room without the book.

Geoffrey is about to enter his bedroom upstairs to sleep when he is startled by the sight of a knight in chain mail and armour touching things on the bedside table. The boy gingerly re-enters the room. The knight is gone, but the little red history book lies provocatively on the bed.

As Geoffrey reaches forward, the book flips open of its own accord. Tiny Saxon warriors (as depicted in the Bayeux tapestry) grow out of the book to full size as they rush past him, knocking him to the floor. They are loud, calling out in Old English before they vanish into the wall. In terror, Geoffrey puts a weight on the closed book.

Sebastian runs Geoffrey to earth in the potting shed, which he has converted into a gymnasium.

After teasing the boy into a rage, Sebastian instructs Geoffrey in the skill of boxing, and thereby drags the boy somewhat out of his self-absorbed grey mood. By way of conversation, Geoffrey mentions Sebastian's father and the present of the little red book.

Geoffrey wakes with a start to find Grandpa Marsden (in his knightly guise as Sir Digby) sitting beside the bed, reading the little history book by candle-light. Geoffrey pinches the man savagely on the forearm. Sir Digby yelps, despite being dead. Geoffrey is promised military greatness and a long life.

[Footnote: Geoffrey dies at the very end of Film #3 "The Thread".]

The knight and boy (in his pyjamas) are instantly standing on the beach at Pevensey. They stand side-by-side, looking across to France.

Geoffrey is told the following: William the Bastard (the Great Man) gathered some 6000 warriors, and shipped them, with all the horses and equipage across this water in 1066. Further, it is intimated that Geoffrey will meet the Great Man and must be physically prepared for this endeavour. Geoffrey is advised to sign-up for many sporting activities offered at his school.

And Geoffrey must read "The English Under The Norman Yoke" devotedly. This Geoffrey does.

Mr Durrell's History lesson revolves around the Battle of Hastings. Several boys are quizzed and give somewhat satisfactory answers to his questions.

Geoffrey is utterly downcast for being so singled-out with Mr Durrell's sledgehammer sarcasm. Geoffrey looks about him, at a sea of sneering boyish faces, glaring at him. And then Geoffrey slips into a dream/vision.

MAJOR MOOD CHANGE within the scene:

This is a surreal scene which Geoffrey imagines as his teacher drones on.

In the hall at Egilstead, Mr Durrell, using a very persuasive storytelling voice, tells the tale, whilst the boys are breathlessly rapt. The story is played-out in addition to Durrell's commentary.

The Prince of Byzantium was attacked by the ferocious pirate, Anund the Viking.

The latter stole from the Prince the two most precious jewels in Christendom.

The Viking stowed the priceless jewels in a strongbox, locked it with a golden key, and delivered that casket to the king of England, Harold Godwinsson. Fearful of the Normans invading from the South, King Harold ordered his henchman, Eorl Wegga of Egilstead, to guard that strongbox. Our entire film hangs on the rediscovery of these jewels: "The Eyes of Christ".

We return to the original classroom scene.

Mr Durrell (furious that Geoffrey has fallen asleep in class) smashes his cane loudly on Geoffrey's desk. The boy wakes and sits up with a tremendous start and a gasp.

With every boy watching him, willing him to go down in flames with a flogging, Durrell again demands of Geoffrey that he name the combatants at the Battle of Hastings. Trembling, Geoffrey stands, touches the red History book in his pocket and thereby gains confidence. As he speaks, he becomes ever more lively – keen to explain the background to Duke William's invasion and the Viking blood link between the combatants. Then, warmly encouraged by his teacher, the boy launches into a potted description of the battle itself. His reward is a loud cheer from the class.

Geoffrey must win the friendship of the other boys, and he unwittingly does this by beating Skeggs in a boxing match during Sports in the school's gymnasium.

Geoffrey is informed as he leaves chapel that his parents await him in the green sitting room.

Sebastian has recalled Geoffrey speaking of a "History book" given to him by one of the Marsden males. When Grandpa Marsden's widow raises a hue and cry over the disappearance of "The English Under The Norman Yoke", Sebastian wonders if Geoffrey might not be able to shed more light. Consequently, Lord and Lady Cavendish visit Whitefriars to interview Geoffrey.

Normally, Geoffrey is cool to the point of rudeness with Bessie but surprises her by kissing her and calling her "Mother". As Lord Cavendish is distracted by an old school chum (now a teacher at the school) Geoffrey whispers to her that he MUST speak to her alone.

Geoffrey admits to having the treasured book (given to him by a nondescript uncle) and rates the tome: "A jolly old wheeze". Perplexed and not to be diverted by his son's wiles, Lord Cavendish persists: how did the book come into Geoffrey's possession save by Divine intervention? Geoffrey hands over the book and then offers to write to Grandma Marsden to explain and apologize. This change of face by Geoffrey (becoming docile instead of belligerent) shocks both his father and step-mother. Receiving a speaking look from Geoffrey, Bessie encourages her husband to wander off somewhere.

Once alone with Bessie, Geoffrey rushes to discover any clues as to the emerald mystery. He gives Bessie leave to look in his room for the wrappings and card pertaining to the gift of the little red book. Then he swiftly kisses her again and dashes off.

Geoffrey is in his bath and is startled to find Sir Digby (whom he still knows as Grandpa Marsden) fiddling about in the sink with a fish.

Sir Digby is sending Geoffrey and his friends back to 1066. And as a means to achieve this end, Sir Digby will employ the spines of the fish.

Geoffrey happily fishes in the village stream, but then his mood turns sour when Bell and Skeggs bicycle towards him. Sir Digby on horseback is also present.

Geoffrey abandons his rod and moves towards Bell, Skeggs and Sir Digby, surprised that the boys can see Sir Digby. Just as another skirmish is about to erupt between the boys, Sir Digby notes aloud that there is a fish on Geoffrey's line. As the three boys work together to land the fish, it spears each boy with its spines, knocking them out cold.

[Footnote: These three boys end up being knocked out for two days, during which they all dream of pre-Conquest England. Geoffrey becomes Snarr, Bell is Oldroyd, Treacle is Wegga (the Younger) and of course, Grandpa Marsden is Sir Digby.]

Now the film progresses into Dream #1 and the time is July 1066.

Cedric, Geoffrey & Henry.

The village folk (including Snarr, Oldroyd and young Wegga) gather to hear the news as delivered by Lord Larchwood.

King Edward had promised that Atheling Harold Godwinsson would succeed him as King of England. And then prior to his death, King Edward **also** promised the crown of England to Duke William of Normandy. As Lord Larchwood so succinctly put it: "Our King has double-booked."

To further confuse the issue, Tostig's brother Harald Hardrada, a huge man of the North, also laid claim to Atheling Harold's Kingdom. In brief, then, there is a threat from the North (Hardrada) and from the South (Duke William). God seems to be taking care of the Norman threat, as the wind fails to blow propitiously. This call to arms summons men and grown boys to gather under Harold's banner in the North, against the huge Hardrada.

Snarr, Oldroyd and Wegga rush towards their home (Egilstead) past the distinctive rock formation (called "Tate's Tor"), up the hill to the house.

As they arrive, they see Eorl Wegga and his two elder sons (who have all been undertaking strenuous exercise) wipe dirt from their hands and arms near to the entrance hatch to the cellar. Their boots are muddy.

Egil is busy in the kitchen. The boys gather there as she jokingly sings battle songs for them.

Oldroyd has a remit prior to the battle against Hardrada: Lord Larchwood wants him to spy the coast for any movement from across the Channel, should the wind ever change.

The boys prove their manhood to Eorl Wegga's satisfaction and are thus permitted to take part in their first battle.

Amongst sandy dunes on a beach, Oldroyd receives news from a carrier pigeon.

Oldroyd is unable to read and so uses the talents of an old wise man. The news for the King relates to the immense gathering of forces and boats at St Valery, Normandy.

In the North of England, in a hall, King Harold and his Knights carouse.

This scene of rising passionate dysfunctionality contrasts starkly to the Norman cool orderliness (which we shall witness in the next Act).

The atmosphere in this hall in York is just like any noisy Saturday night at the local pub.

The men joke, with King Harold telling humorous anecdotes about the enemy's fighting prowess (or lack of it). They dismiss the Norman threat as a Godless and leaderless rabble that has waited too long to cross the Channel.

Oldroyd staggers into a rowdy reception. His message to the King is that William the Bastard has gathered a vast army from all over Europe and will set sail for England soon.

King Harold attacks the messenger, and the scene changes to one of complete pandemonium.

Harold storms angrily from the hall, violently pushing on-lookers from his path. From this moment on, until his death in the battle, Harold is angry, reactive, abusive and loutish.

The rowdy, shouting knights splutter about, pulling themselves together, re-arming and diving out of the room. This is indeed a scene of dramatic, irresistible bustle.

Snarr and young Wegga are dragged into the melee.

Now the film progresses out of Dream #1 and the time is February, 1928.

In his Whitefriar's dormitory, Geoffrey wakes to be told by the elderly maid that he and the other boys (Skeggs and Bell) have been "out to it" for two days. Geoffrey tears over to the other dormitory to find Mortimer and Danton sitting forlornly by Skeggs' bed. The situation is explained to Geoffrey: he and the other two boys were found by the stream unconscious. Encouraged by Geoffrey, Skeggs suddenly awakens, speaking in Old English to Snarr. Skeggs is dismayed and disappointed to find himself back in bed at Whitefriars.

Similarly, Bell awakens, speaks to the Geoffrey and Skeggs in Old English, to the puzzled disbelief of Mortimer and Danton. When they compare notes, the three boys realize that they have been on the same dream/adventure, sent on their way (as promised) by Sir Digby's spiky fish.

ACT II

Geoffrey moves into the dormitory with the other boys. Together they work through "The English Under The Norman Yoke" as they try to solve the puzzle of the emeralds. They also discuss the significance of Dr Eblin who was the physician who treated Geoffrey's mother.

Bell's brother Sydney has organized for a night out in a London club (in Fanshawe Alley). Thus the boys travel there by train.

The five boys (correctly attired in evening dress) are enjoying their night out at a very fast dive. George is appalled at the state of intoxication abounding (especially as concerns the females), whereas the other boys try to enjoy themselves. The drink waiter turns into Grandpa Marsden. He has spiked the drinks. The boys fade out of Fanshawe Alley and into 1066.

© December 2011 Property of QUEENSLAND TRUCKIE'S MATE

Now the film progresses into Dream #2 and the time is October 1066.

All 5 boys.

The Normans and their fellow adventurers await a favourable wind at St Valery.

Finally the wind turns. There is much leave-taking and sage advice to the young untried warriors (especially to Roger and Peter).

We juxtapose the orderly, well-drilled Norman soldiers with the slapdash Saxon warriors.

Duke William and his entourage arrive at Pevensey. Then battle ensues. This mighty moment in history is viewed from both the Saxon and Norman viewpoint.

Peter Frankiss (that is, Leonard) is jubilant after the battle of Hastings. As he rides about in high alt, he is stopped by Duke William, who points out to him the honour that he has achieved by fighting on that day.

We find King William at prayer as the baleful sounds of mourning obtrude.

There is a Saxon funeral for the dead warriors. Snarr, Bell and Wegga are distraught. Snarr must recite a heroic poem. This is a very harrowing scene.

Now the film progresses out of Dream #1 and the year is 1928.

We return to 1928 in a badly lit storeroom in Fanshawe Alley.

The five boys have woken days later. George is badly injured (his left arm is bandaged). Bell's brother Sydney checks on the boys. Everyone has been very worried. Sydney chits Cedric for his overwhelming grief, not realizing that Cedric (as Wegga) has just lost his father and brothers in the great battle.

ACT III

The boys are together in their Mathematics class with their doddery old teacher.

Out of nothing, the boys begin to fight. Geoffrey, Henry and Cedric stick up for the Saxons whilst being taunted by Leonard and George (for the Normans). The fight is savage. Several teachers and bigger boys have to separate them. During the fight the boys yelled and cursed at each other in the old languages: Old English or Norman French (as appropriate). The non-combatants in the class are hugely excited and barrack loudly.

Thus the boys are marched into the Headmaster's Office (apart from Leonard who is injured and must be seen to by Matron).

Henry Bell is blamed for the misconduct by Head on the strength of Bell not being a gentleman's son. This strikes Geoffrey and George as being completely unfair. They challenge Head. For their insubordination, all the boys are sent down for a week. Geoffrey and George receive 6 of the best (with the cane) from Head.

Having been sent down, the five boys make their way to the Bell mansion in London. Mrs Bell (Henry's mother) is a pretty air-head who makes a huge fuss of the boys, almost flirting with them. She intends to go horse-riding. Her maitre d' organizes correct attire for the boys so that they may join her (if Geoffrey and George are not too sore!)

Riding about on horses allows the five boys time to reflect. They all now realize that their lives will never be the same. They have fought as men beside men. And things will continue to be rough for them until they solve the puzzle of the emeralds. George gets an idea and hares off.

At his home (the Bishop's Palace) George faces up to his responsibilities.

In an effort to be manly, George makes a clean breast of his part in the school fight to his father (the bishop). The two Danton males shake hands. George is permitted to phone his chums. To them he divulges that he has seen a gentleman in the public library (M. Laurestan) who is the dead-ringer for William the Conqueror. The boys have decamped to the Pentecost Abbey (residence of the Cavendish clan) in Oxford and to that place George travels.

At the Abbey, the boys discuss how difficult it is to glean any emerald clues from Grandpa Marsden's little red book.

Before the boys meet up with Sir Digby in the garden at Pentecost Abbey, they receive some startling information from Bessie. She tells them (casually) that it was Monsieur Laurestan who cradled Grandpa Marsden in his arms as Marsden died. Not only that, but the men were discussing the little read History book at the time in the public library.

The boys meet up with Sir Digby in the garden. He promises another dream (this one very upsetting and desperate). George wants to know why cannot Marsden simply tell them the secret to the priceless gems. Marsden explains that he is right on the money with the future but the past eludes him. Before sending them back in time, Sir Digby fills the boys in on what will happen to them all when they become grown men. And just at the last minute, Sir Digby reveals that he was murdered. This horrifies the boys who wonder how on earth they will ever solve the puzzle.

Now the film progresses into Dream #3 some years following 1066.

All 5 boys.

In the third dream, the “boys” have grown up to be sturdy young men.

Feste (King William’s minstrel) flirts without success with Lollie at Egilstead. Such is the hatred of the Normans that Lollie warns Feste to stay well clear of the Saxon woods. Her warning goes unheeded and Feste is duly slaughtered by an outlaw Saxon mob.

In his English garden, King William is devastated when Feste’s blood-stained lute is brought to him. He speaks of retribution and of bringing his new land to order (via the Domesday book). Anund arrives, demanding the return of precious gems (originally left in Harold Godwinson’s care). No-one is aware of the location of these gems.

Displaced Saxons are drawn to Egilstead in their desperation and starvation. This is an emotional scene whereby Lollie and Wegga discuss what they have lost by the Norman invasion.

Now the film progresses out of Dream #3 and the year is 1928.

The third dream ends. On the train (as they return to Whitefriars) another fight starts out of nothing.

The five boys are forcibly dragged from the train by burly policemen.

In the paddy wagon, Geoffrey baldly delivers an ultimatum to his four friends. They ***must*** stop the fighting and work like slaves to solve the blue emerald mystery.

ACT IV

The 5 boys work at their detention under the aegis of Mr Durrell. They fiddle about with a letter of apology (which is destined to be sent to Grandma Marsden). However, their naughtiness causes Mr Durrell to call them to his desk. They then blurt out to the teacher all the trouble that they are in on account of the little red book (and the task set them by Sir Digby).

Sandford Durrell is one of the members of the Healthy, Wealthy and Wise club. Mr Durrell visits his brother to discuss the little red book with him. Many juicy details come forth. The ultimate decision is made by Sandford.

Mr Durrell takes charge. He organizes for the 5 boys to meet the members of the Healthy, Wealthy and Wise club. After much discussion, the matter devolves on the appearance of Wegga's father (Eorl Wegga) in a picture of part of the Bayeux Tapestry. However, he is not in the original tapestry. He carries a box of some sort. Now the idea obtrudes that the box contains the emeralds and that it was hidden at Egilstead. But the location of Egilstead remains unknown.

The five boys are making a genuine effort to discover the whereabouts of Egilstead. They are also trying to get themselves fit and battle-ready.

In the dormitory at Whitefriars, the five boys have a very busy night. George has discovered masturbation in his longing for female company. Leonard has worked out that it is Dr Eblin who is killing anyone who stands in his way to get at the emeralds. So the boys decide that Mr Durrell must be told of their suspicions with regard to the doctor.

George and Leonard take some tennis practice. They meet Sir Digby and Anund. Thus, through an accidental head clash, they are transported back in time.

Now the film progresses into Dream #4 some years after 1066.

George & Leonard.

George (as Roger) and Leonard (as Peter) turn up in Norman England as young men (rather than teenage boys). Peter has ingratiated himself with the outer members of the King's retinue. Roger's caring attitude towards the vanquished Saxons has precluded him from being honoured as has Peter. Peter has organized for the two young men to ravish a Saxon bride on the day of her wedding. Just as Peter begins the seduction, Roger reacts. He can no longer stand by in the face of further cruelty to the vanquished Saxons.

A sword-fight between Roger and Peter follows, in which Peter is badly wounded. Roger (who could so easily have blamed the injury on the Saxons) whips around, organizing care for Peter.

Peter (winning huge admiration from the Saxon girls) is rescued by a party of Normans. He is carried off in litter. Roger is also popular – but with all the Saxons. An old gaffer surprises Roger by predicting that Eorl Wegga would be shown where the treasure lies through the offices of a Holy Man. It appears that Roger is now utterly hopeful of a bright future for Norman England.

Now the film progresses out of Dream #4 and the year is 1928.

When the boys come back to themselves (on the ground near the tennis court) they decide to say nothing of Peter's sleaziness. They will pass off the wound as an accident.

Everything now depends upon Cedric (as Eorl Wegga). Much to the disgust of the other boys Cedric escapes Whitefriars in order to return home. He wants his Mother and he must attend a funeral of an old family relative. In a black mood, Cedric is passed a photograph of what had once been known

as Tate's Tor. Elated, Cedric demands of the Vicar (that is, the promised Holy Man) where this rock formation can be found. Then Cedric leaps onto his motorbike to rush over to Whitefriars. "I've found Egilstead!" he screams.

The old cellar of what once was Egilstead is duly discovered and broached.

Monsieur Laurestan, the two Durrell brothers and the five boys comprise 8 living fighters. They are joined by the 2 ghosts (Sir Digby and Anund). Every conceivable weapon has been snaffled, including some heraldic remnants usually affixed to the walls at Whitefriars.

The enemy are cartoon representations of Bayeux Tapestry figures. The wooden casket is uncovered and therein (to great thrill) are found the Eyes of Christ. This treasure is promised to be handed over to King George V and Queen Mary.

Wandering about in Hastings, the boys decide to treat themselves to a bang-up victory dinner in the King Harold Inn. They must get past the stalwart caretakers, who wish to dissuade under-age patrons, especially such insouciant boys as these! Leonard clinches the deal. The boys smoke cigars, drink liquor and pontificate on their roles in the saga.

