

SPECIAL NOTES

To be followed by a Short Synopsis, Dramatis Personae and Full Synopsis.

Maggs and Nerine are played by the same actress.

Although I have stated that Clarin and Norman are played by the same actor, it may not be possible for the Clarin of ACT II (a young man) to be played by the Norman actor. We might have to employ a "Young Clarin" for ACT II.

Naming the hero "Norman" was a conceit in a reference back to the 1066 invaders of England. Norm and other Aussies (my Father was one of them) were shipped to the Holy Land to fight the Germans. It was never their intention to go to that part of the world, and certainly not for any religious purpose. Nevertheless, the fight against the Saracen dominated the thoughts of our medieval characters, yet ironically they did not ever make it.

Both kings were younger brothers who suffered by comparison with their older siblings.

I warmed to the theme of naming not just horses and dogs, but the accoutrements of battle as well: swords and bucklers had a name as well. Kind of cute.

And finally (strictly speaking) John is not a Norman king but an Angevin.

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SHORT SYNOPSIS

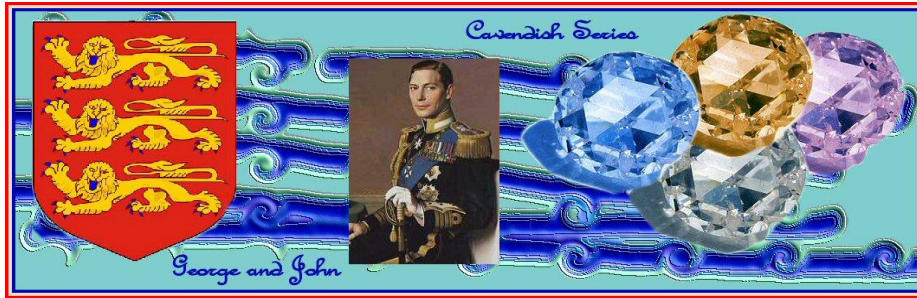
In "George and John", King John is every bit as bad as he was painted in "Robin Hood": maybe worse! He is surrounded by five henchmen (Simon, Walter, Martin, Roland and Guy) who swear eternal allegiance to each other and to their King.

King George is the gentle, loving King who wants to reward his loyal subjects. They have suffered such privations during the War ... Can he not recover (on behalf of his subjects) the lost Plantagenet jewels supposedly spilled into The Wash when a convoy of wagons was caught by a rogue tide?

Nerine Bevan (daughter of Lord Cavendish) along with Australian engineer Norm Yardley travel back to the court of King John as the young lovers Clarin and Maggs. He is a handsome Norman and she is a beautiful Saxon. Their love and the destiny of the fabulous jewels are played out against the machinations of those closest to the peevish, wilful and dangerously quixotic King John of England.

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Film #2 -- Cavendish, George and John: DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Only two of the "George and John" players spend time in both "now" and "then".

"real-life" CHARACTER	"dream sequence" CHARACTER
Nerine Bevan	Maggs
Norman Yardley	Clarín de Pelerine

"real-life" CHARACTER
King George VI
Lord Roy Cavendish
Lady Elizabeth Cavendish
Geoffrey Bevan and his wife Julia
George Danton
Michael Bevan
Jack Bennett and Maurie Dalkeith

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Leo Markinson

"dream sequence" CHARACTER (from 1214)

King John

SIMON le Maistre

MARTIN of Lambden

GUY le Formur

ROLAND Huisier

WALTER de Quincy

Duc de Reebes

Crome, Passley and Lute

The Pelerine Family (Father, Mother Elmer and Annelise)

Minor roles:

Barons. Sundry shooters, beaters. Assorted servants.

The MAIN CHARACTERS

THE CHARACTERS OF 1948 - 1952	
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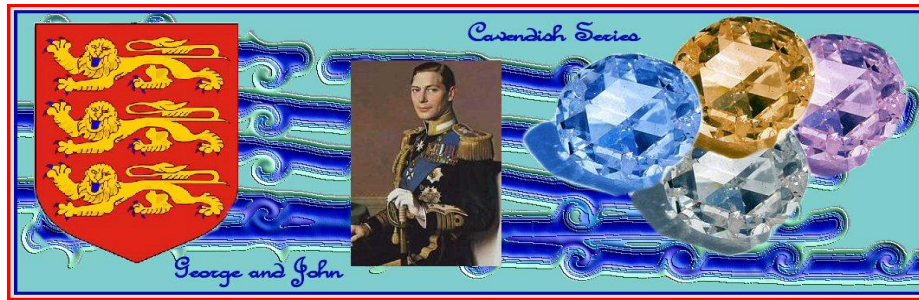
King George VI	Very old now (unlike the brisk young man we all adored in "The King's Speech"; <i>but be advised that my story --this</i>
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<p>A real person some of whose activities are dramatized.</p>	<p><i>one -- was first written in 2004).</i></p> <p>He is frail and appears to be haunted by his dying wish that there be a momentous treasure bequeathed to the valiant English people (in the form of King John's Plantagenet jewels).</p> <p>An over-riding theme is that the King had lived in the broad shadow of his elder brother (David, who took the title Edward VIII).</p>
<p>Nerine Bevan</p>	<p>The same actress plays the part of Maggs in medieval times.</p> <p>Daughter of Lord Cavendish (Roy Bevan), and thus, the half-sister of Geoffrey Bevan. We met her earlier as a baby in film #1.</p> <p>She is beautiful, stylish (following her sojourn in Paris), and has a wonderful, bubbly personality.</p>
<p>Norman Yardley</p>	<p>The same actor plays Clarin in the medieval times.</p> <p>Australian engineer: no-nonsense, efficient at his job, a likeable bloke.</p> <p>During World War II, he served in the Holy Land.</p>
<p>Lord Roy Cavendish</p>	<p>Older than we saw him in film #1, but the same character: used to being in charge, expects proper behaviour from those around him, and does not suffer fools gladly (even in his own family).</p>

Lady Elizabeth Cavendish	As we saw her in film #1, but perhaps a little older looking. Known as "Bessie", she is gracious, warm, lovely and sympathetic.
Geoffrey Bevan	A very respectable young married man, unlike the wild boy we remember from the first film. He will appear for a third time, as a very old man, in Film #3.
George Danton	Likewise, George has grown up, to become a History Master at Whitefriar's. He married Nerine's older sister, Beatrice, as was exactly predicted by Sir Digby in film #1.
Michael Bevan	<p>Roy Bevan's second son, and thus half-brother of Geoffrey, and brother to Beatrice and Nerine.</p> <p>A veteran of World War II (as were Geoffrey, George, and Norm), he is now gun-shy and somewhat withdrawn.</p>
THE CHARACTERS OF 1213	
<p>King John</p> <p>A real person whose experiences are largely dramatized.</p>	<p>Whatever he was in real life, John is portrayed here as the very antithesis of King George VI.</p> <p>He is a ghastly man, who makes his life Hell for his five henchmen. Concupiscent, John is capable of changing within the blink of an eye from charming Prince, to weeping child, to murderous rogue.</p> <p>An over-riding theme is that the King had lived in the broad shadow of his elder brother (King Richard).</p> <p>Another theme which reappears throughout this film is</p>

	the unspeakable yearning (not just of John, but of all the knights) to take arms against the Saracen in the Holy Land (as in a Crusade).
Sir Simon le Maistre	The charming uncle of Clarin. Seems to be the closest of the five henchmen to the King.
Sir Walter de Quincy	Gives the impression of trying too hard to please the King by fair means or foul. It appears that he only tolerates the other four gentlemen in order to placate the King.
Sir Martin of Lambden	This part was specifically written to be played by Tom Wilkinson. A marvellous, devoted Holy man. He flummoxes and blusters, in his efforts to please the King. He (of all this group) is the only one to survive, by allying himself with the King's widow and son.
Sir Roland Husier	<p>This part was specifically written to be played by Clive Owen. He has a strong Cockney accent, and outrageous chivalry, in the teeth of fierce opposition from the King.</p> <p>The girdle he always wears (not a corset, but a decorative silk cord with tassels at either end) bears knots which he ties whenever he has to make a hit.</p> <p>He and Sir Guy do all the "dirty work": the slayings, both political and dynastic.</p> <p>Despite this, Roland is the epitome of Chivalry and Humanitarianism. His attitude towards Clarin borders on the bizarre.</p>

Sir Guy le Formur	The muscleman and shit-kicker of the group, who is lumbered with all the unsavoury tasks. He speaks with a grinding Cockney accent, reminiscent of Ray Winstone. His plight is to have obeyed his King yet disobeyed his God. He is a rather pathetic character, whose time on Earth is swiftly brought to a close by Clarin.
Clarin de Pelerine	This part is played by the same actor who plays Norm. Quite a different character to his 20th century counterpart. He has a belief structure which often allies itself to that of Roland; yet, at other times, he is the cool character of gangster fiction.
Maggs	This part is played by the same actress who plays Nerine. Maggs is jolly, funny and prosaic. If there were such a being as a Saxon pixie, then Maggs would fit that role.



FULL SYNOPSIS

August, 1948. The Shooting Party Of King George VI (Father Of Queen Elizabeth II).

A shooting party at which King George VI is present re-acquaints us with Lord Cavendish and his son Geoffrey.

The King and Cavendish discuss their secret project by which (if successful) the King might give back to the brave British folk something of value: King John's jewels which were lost in The Wash.

1948, The Site At The Wash

At The Wash there is a tool shed wherein all the machinery, lumber and mess pertaining to the project is stored. A few ordinary bibs and bobs have been retrieved, but no more than that. Nerine strolls in and begs some funds from the petty cash tin. The two men working late organize £10 for Nerine and then return to work, understanding that she has left. Later, they find her in a kind of trance. She demands paper and a pen, and scribbles down her recollections of hearing King John speaking overhead.

1948, Pentecost Abbey, Oxford, Ancestral Home Of The Lords Cavendish.

Bessie (Nerine's mother) tries to smooth things over with Nerine, who is petulant and frustrated at her father's refusal to hear her out. Cavendish was annoyed that Nerine had been poking about, touching the relics. Nerine argues that the object which she had picked up had not only "bitten" her but had left a scar reminiscent of a heraldic insignia.

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Nerine has written down the exciting events which she experienced, so now can read them aloud to her Mother. Nerine describes her finger being pricked by a brooch, followed immediately by voices raised in conversation which clearly emanates from King John. Nerine is surprised when her Mother mentions Geoffrey, Nerine's half-brother.

In pondering this phenomenon, Bessie reveals that the project involving the King and Lord Cavendish centres on finding King John's jewels, lost in The Wash.

After Buckingham Palace was bombed during World War II, some old trunks found among the rubble were cleared out. Therein, several medieval drawings and paintings were uncovered, not known previously. These indicated the existence of a set of the most beautiful, elegant jewels, which were probably brought into England by the Crusaders.

The King had showed Cavendish this artwork, by way of convincing him that King John had at one stage possessed these rare treasures, but that they were lost in the famous debacle at The Wash.

1948, Twilight, On The Shore Near The Wash

The King and Lord Cavendish agree that their project is a winner, and should be extended.

1948, Lord Cavendish's Study At Pentecost Abbey

Nerine is insistent that her father believes that King John (or his ghost) spoke in the tool shed, but Lord Cavendish is having none of it. Instead, he distracts his daughter by telling her that strings have been pulled and she has been accepted as a student at the Sorbonne.

ACT I

Four years have passed.

1952, The Workshed At The Wash

After 4 years at the Sorbonne Nerine (who has matured into a beautiful, sophisticated young woman) revisits the work shed, armed with her ancient book of Crusader jewels. She marvels that the project has expanded so much in 4 years, and that so many commonplace articles have been recovered. While her father makes an important phone call to the United States, Nerine walks the dog along the beach.

1952, Out On The Beach At The Wash

The King arrives at the project site and wanders about. Norm is working busily and does not recognize the King. Treating "Bert Windsor" as a nice chap, Norm explains with sketches in the sand how the project is going.

1952, Later Outside The Workshed.

Lord Cavendish berates Norm for being over-familiar with the King.

1952, King George And Nerine At The Wash

The King shows Nerine the artwork depicting King John's jewels. Many of the paintings which the King leafs through reflect forward to scenes which we shall later witness. And Nerine shows to the King her French book.

We learn that Nerine has not met Norm yet.

1952, Advancing Darkness In The Shed

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Norm walks into the work shed, as Cavendish is on the phone, angrily trying to organise something. Norm apologizes for not recognizing the King. They agree that the King looks ill, and Cavendish admits that His Majesty liked the cut of Norm's jib.

The whining and scratching of the dogs alerts the men that something is wrong.

Nerine has collapsed on the floor of the work shed. Norm takes control of the situation and carries her to the car, and from there to the hospital with Lord Cavendish in the passenger seat. Both men are concerned as to why the girl collapsed.

ACT II

[All of ACT II is devoted to Nerine's "dream/vision".]

1203, A Roman Villa (In England) On A Wet Afternoon

King John has five companions with whom he is open, and in return, these men are permitted to be insouciant and bold with him: Martin, Roland, Guy, Simon and Walter. The six men enjoy a ribald word game as is their habit.

And being a very rainy day, King John decides to test his newest pet theory: should there be a swollen river, and some poor simple soul being stuck on a drowning eyot then the man must swim to safety, or he too will perish in the floods. And should there be on the near bank is a vicious monster that will surely kill him and on the far bank stands a saddled horse, His Majesty's theory is that (addled by fear) the fool would swim towards the monster.

The King decides to test this theory on the next day, and asks that Simon bring along his delightful nephew Clarin Pelerine.

A Saxon girl (Maggs) has been taken up for trespass, and thus ensues a delightfully comic turn between the King and the lovely Saxon maiden. She possesses a letter of introduction (such that she might obtain work as a tire woman) from her patroness, the beautiful Dame Magdeleyne who lived at the Halvey Nunnery, in seclusion from the world (but is now deceased).

The six men quickly enjoy another word game, however they are floored by Maggs playing at the game much better than they can. John is totally delighted with Maggs.

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1203, The River, With Heavy Rain Falling

The testing of the theory falls apart immediately in that the Saxon guinea pig cannot in fact swim.

Among the audience (sheltering in a tent) are the King, Maggs and members of the court. Simon's nephew Clarin is clearly upset by the fate to be doled out to the hapless Saxon.

Roland pushes the man away, back onto the island. Then he (Roland) leaps athletically onto the boat. Guy slaps at the Saxon's hands with the oars. Finally, the man splashes about helplessly in the water. The camera's focus switches to John, who is delighted. John is chagrined that (by not being able to swim) the Saxon cannot test the theory.

Bringing on one of the King's worst attacks of fury, Clarin strips down in order to rescue the poor man. This he does, taking the Saxon to the bank where the horse stands, throws the man over the horse's back and orders the man to lead the Saxon away.

King John prepares to dispatch Clarin, except that Maggs intervenes. She cleverly argues that Clarin represents the new Englishman: of brave Norman blood, yet caring for the Saxons. The King's companions agree. Clarin is spared, and indeed is knighted.

1203, Night Time: On the Dark Road back To The Villa

A group of peasants attacks the King's coach. The five companions, joined by Clarin rout the attackers, while John stays in the coach comforting the frightened Maggs. Clarin is aghast that John takes the glory after the fight is over.

1203, The Pelerine Fireside

Herein we meet the Pelerine family. Clarin despises the lustful interest of the King: his good looks and manly form have won the King over. His best chance is to team-up with the Duc de Reebes who is soon to visit court. Clarin's parents advise him on how to prepare himself to become worthy of the Duc's notice.

We learn that Martin Lambden is considered to be a good man.

1203, A Sunny day Outside the Roman Villa

This is the episode which Nerine heard in the work shed.

King John and Maggs play with bark boats, and Maggs comes up with the idea of calling the fleet of boats "navies".

The Duc de Reebes and John argue strenuously over the threat of the dangerously mad King Philip of France (who has gone so far that he is training dragons to obey him). It is John's devout wish to lead a crusade to the Holy Land, and not to take arms against the French King in order to protect England's French possessions.

While the argument rages, the others discuss the latest scandals from Rome. We learn more of King Philip and his fascination for dragons. Walter shocks his associates by stating that madness affects John just as it does Philip.

Simon privately warns Maggs that the King's interest in her is only transitory; whereas all she wants is to obtain a good position with a good family.

John testily demands of Maggs that she repeat the words of her grand-dam (a seer), with evident reference to himself. The prediction in fact relates to King George VI, and not to any future King John.

The straggling members of the group meet at the King's hobby farm. Clarin has been accepted by the Duc, and will be trained as a knight. Clarin (to preserve the virtue of Maggs) offers to marry Maggs and begs the King to free her from his toils. John almost becomes savagely angry but is forestalled by the quick work of the Duc.

The upshot is that the King gives up his desires for Maggs and instructs that she is to be delivered up to the Pelerine family, to be their companion in Clarin's absence.

1203, In The Castle, A Huge Hall Filled With The King's Well-To-Do Subjects.

This scene is dedicated to an entertainment for the Duc de Reebes.

Comedians Crome and Passley join with the court jester Lute to scandalize and offend His Majesty and his court with smut, insults and political commentary. However, backstage the comedians are running a lucrative smuggling business.

1203, Preparation For The Jousting Practice

King John has previously ordered that Clarin, Guy and Roland are to get in some jousting practice. As they prepare, Clarin wonders aloud about the fact that Roland weeps as he prays. Guy explains that the tears are for his dead love, Mary. None of the five friends to the King were permitted to marry, as their royal duties would have precluded that. The suspicion is that John had Mary murdered as soon as it became evident that Roland would leave John for Mary. Guy sadly relates that the King has given him numerous tasks to perform, all of which involved murder.

ACT III

1952, The Bethany Hospital

Nerine has woken from her visit back to 1203. She is in hospital, attended by brother Michael. Of her fiancé there is no sign. Owing to her new love (Clarin) she vows to dump the fiancé at the earliest opportunity. Nerine enthuses about King John's court, and demands armfuls of History books.

1952, The Langtree Restaurant

[Here, Norm and Nerine will finally meet.]

This scene contains lots of vibrant, witty family conversation. Cavendish thoroughly enjoys the company of his children, who are all present, along with others. Norm has been invited, as he had to come up to London for an appointment.

When Norm wanders into this convivial scene, he sits with Michael and talks about war service with him. Nerine is totally frosty, as she is overset by seeing her beloved Clarin again (this time, in the guise of an Australian engineer). Later, when Norm leaves, Michael chivvies Nerine on her coldness towards the hapless Australian. Nerine dashes after Norm, leaving Geoffrey and George frustrated: they had wanted to pump Nerine for information about her trip to the court of King John.

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1952, Busy London Street.

Here, Nerine must explain her coldness to Norm.

Norm strides along with Nerine in pursuit. After several tries, Nerine manages to get Norm to at least listen to her tale. When confronted with his being a favourite of King John (in Norm's guise as Clarin) Norm is understandably perplexed and disbelieving. Nerine hits upon a solution: she and Norm can meet at the shed and give the "prick-the-finger" trick another go. Then Norm can see for himself.

1952, A Dark Projection Room In The Palace.

In a short scene, we understand that King George is very ill.

1952, At The Wash, Late At Night

Nerine and Norm meet at the shed (as decided) and seem to get on very well now that they are relaxed. Nerine is scared that her "back-to-the-past" will be simply a repetition of what has already gone forward. To settle her nerves, Norm pricks himself with the jewels but this has no effect. Now Nerine tries. As she faints, she murmurs to Norm that they (that is Maggs and Clarin) are married. Norm and Nerine managed a kiss before she goes into a dead faint.

ACT IV

1215, A Superbly Crafted Barge On The Thames

We find the King and his five henchmen being sculled along the River Thames in the best style. Some time has passed since Nerine's first trip back to 1203: it is now 1215.

The King is attempting to organize his calendar with Martin (distracted and incompetent) as master of the scrolls. Many up-coming events are mentioned, along with the fact that Clarin and his wife Maggs have returned from Normandy. Also mentioned is the future signing of the Magna Carta,

which very much displeases the King. He distracts himself from that onerous task by planning his Crusade.

1215, A Field Near A Castle. The First Cricket Match

King John is multi-tasking in this scene. He makes prodigious and hugely expensive plans for his glorious Crusade. Also, the King witnesses an early cricket match (the game being called “wicket” or “criquette”).

Harking back to his proposed sojourn to Runnymede, the King works himself into a frenzy, listing all of his fine works and noble qualities. In the end, so irate is the King, that he grabs a sword and lashes out at the cricket players.

1215, The Council Chamber.

The film now depicts the King John Pilgrimage (from his own imaginings). This is a very lovely scene, chock-full of angelic beauty.

1215, In A Huge Room In An Old Castle.

John, Maggs and Clarin dance a stately *pas de trois*, moving gracefully as they thread their way among the five friends (who stand stationary).

1215, King John's Private Chamber.

The threat from the barons has totally overthrown the King's mental balance, and he cowers on the floor near his bed, wailing that he cannot fight in France.

1215, Prelude To Magna Carta

Roland practises archery, while being harried on one side by the barons and on the other by Guy. The proximity of Guy and Roland (John's least-favoured companions) to the barons raises the

suspicious of John (which we shall witness later). When Roland speaks to Guy, he must beware that the barons do not overhear him.

Guy indicates that he fears that John wants to do away with him, and discusses this with Roland.

1215, The Castle's Armoury Room.

Throughout this scene, John is either thunder-struck at Guy's words, or appalled. He goes by turn from anger to boyish cajoling. This is when John is at his most dangerous.

John starts by ordering a slaughter which Guy must perform to his satisfaction.

Guy accepts and harks back to the order which had him kill Richard the Lionheart's son Geoffrey. Indeed, the only time that Guy was unable to obey King John was in the matter of the murder of Roland's sweetheart, Mary.

1215, Crome And Passley

The comedians put on a riotous performance, which takes a swipe at the King's empty coffers, and the probability that sea-shells will become the new currency. John becomes angry: not at the witty performance, but at the fact that Guy is not amongst the audience. Martin (flummoxed) reminds the King that he sent Guy to The Wash, and that he has obeyed the edict.

1215, Fossil Hunting Near The Seashore

Martin organizes a fossil hunt, and the five companions with Clarin use picks to obtain worthwhile specimens. Walter continues to rail over the King's failure to comprehend that the need for money by the Crown is now URGENT.

Roland, whom we saw distantly watching the scene as he fingered the many knots on his girdle, has disappeared from view.

1215, The King's Bedchamber At King's Lynn

This is the crucial scene which relates to the whereabouts of the Plantagenet jewels.

It is Martin's turn to tuck John into bed. John orders Martin to find Clarin and bring to the room.

When Clarin arrives, Martin is ordered to remain in the room as a witness.

John roundly declares Guy to be a traitor, and then hands to Clarin King Richard's sword "Gallahad" which will be used to despatch Guy. Martin is horrified, however Clarin calmly accepts his task.

When Guy enters the room, John and Martin have posed themselves such as to raise no suspicion; however, the empty scabbard gives Guy unease. As Guy steps near the curtain, Clarin steps forward and murders Guy quickly and cleanly. Judging by Guy's look, he knows that it is John who has ordered his death.

Clarin offers to dispose of the body and the mess in the room. No-one will know. And Guy's absence will be explained-away by the King.

Martin and Clarin leave to bury the corpse, whereas King John begins blathering to God about the justification for the murder. He also hints that he will have to rid himself of Martin, too.

Later, King John rewards Clarin by giving him the sword "Gallahad" and the casket of Plantagenet jewels. Martin is aghast: the jewels must be used to drag England out of debt, AND by donating them to this man (the latest favourite), John is figuratively signing Clarin's death warrant. The jewels will certainly be missed, and that will happen as soon as the next man takes over as "tucker-inner". Clarin comes up with a brilliant scheme: he will transfer the jewels into a pouch (that he will stuff into his jerkin), and leave the empty jewel box in an incriminating fashion at The Wash, where many of the King's wagons have gone into the sea.

1215, At The Wash

On a rainy, miserable day (under a sketchily-built shelter) Martin and Clarin apprise the situation.

Clarin holds that John is dying of a canker. Clarin will take the Plantagenet jewels to France to hide them. At the propitious moment, he will return the jewels to the Queen. This is just what happens: except that it is Clarin's alter-ego Norm who retrieves the jewels for a different queen.

Martin warns Clarin that his murder of Guy has made him a marked man. Clarin is aware of this, and advises Martin to cling to the Queen and her son Henry, the future King.

1215, A Lonely Hillock

Grim-faced, Roland looks out over the countryside, then ties a new knot in his girdle cord.

1215, The Royal Bedchamber

John groans in pain and peevishly wonders where Roland has got to. As Walter and Simon conjecture, John reveals during one of his pets that he ordered the killing of Guy. To Walter and Simon this is the worst possible outcome, since the bond which cemented the five henchmen to the King for his protection is now broken. Walter becomes brutal.

1215, King John's Cumbersome Coach

Simon and Walter accompany John to Newark Abbey.

1215, Newark Abbey At King's Lynn

John suffers a gigantic episode of flatulence as he gorges himself on the proffered feast, and then collapses.

1215 General Delight At The News Of The King's Death

General rejoicing follows as news of the King's death sweeps across England.

(This "mirth in funeral" contrasts sharply with the genuine grief expressed upon King George's death, which is about to occur in 1952.)

1952, Norm's Lodgings

Nerine wakes to find that she passed out again as expected and is now at Norm's place. She tells him a little about the dream, and he pumps her for more information about the words she spoke as she swooned in his arms. Norm goes for broke and takes the girl in a passionate embrace, even though he admits that this is not the gentlemanly thing to do.

1952, The Work Shed At The Wash

Nerine is keen to follow-up where she left off with Clarin tearing off to France to hide the jewels. She and Norm try again with the pricking ploy, but it no longer works. Defeated, Nerine decides to try another tack: the recorded history of the Pelerine family.

1952, Quickly Moving Through A Variety Of Scenes To Progress The Plot

The lovers are seen to enjoy each other's company in a romantic way, whilst at the same time Nerine scours books to try to find a clue.

1952, The Wash

George Danton arrives to discuss Nerine's time travel with her, and to ensure that she understands that such an outcome was predicted. George relates to Norm and Nerine how he, Geoffrey and others went back to fight at the Battle of Hastings. Nerine expresses her disappointment that she can no longer journey back in time.

Feb 6, 1952, Nerine's Bedroom In The Morning

Nerine is awoken to the tragic news that the King has passed away during the night. Cavendish gloomily announces that the project will continue, and he will be giving the men at The Wash a gee-up to confirm that their jobs are safe.

1952, General Views Of Londoners And Other English People Mourning The King's Passing

1952 The Gathering Of The Men At The Wash Work Shed

The scene begins ponderous and lugubrious: Cavendish tells the men of the future plans for the project (that it will continue) and speaks on the subject of the late King.

Norm is in the audience, amongst the men. As her father drones on, Nerine is suddenly arrested by an arcane thought: the method of returning to the past (for her) had been to use the many jewels and trinkets found in The Wash. But would such feminine items work for a man? Would not a sword or dagger render a more successful effect?

Speaking her thoughts aloud and dragging Norm off, she grabs a small dagger which dives into Norm's arms. Speaking lovingly to Nerine in the old language, Norm kisses Nerine and then collapses onto her.

ACT V

1216, Normandy In The Early Morning

This is a very powerful scene. Across a misty ravine in France, Roland and Clarin come face-to-face by dint of a stag which Roland has shot.

Roland has a strange, mystic sense of right: he must lay down his life to serve the vow he made to protect Guy, and thus must avenge his death by murdering Clarin. On the other hand, he now owes allegiance to God in protecting Maggs and Elmer. So strangely, although he must avenge Guy's death, he himself will have to take out Walter and Simon.

Roland clearly identifies with Clarin and (if things had been different) the two men would have been as brothers. *[This theme is echoed when Roland slays Clarin.]*

In spite of all this, Clarin is clear that his overriding duty is to hide the Plantagenet jewels.

1216, Martin Counsels Maggs

The warning is also delivered to the pregnant Maggs by Martin. He adds the rider that now there is the added injury (to Simon and Walter) of the King's missing jewels.

1216, Late Evening At The Wash, And Aboard The Small Boat

Elmer escorts Maggs to France. They begin their journey in a small boat, on The Wash.

Both Pelerines are savagely slaughtered by Simon and Walter, who brazenly board the boat, certain that the jewels would be carried with the mother-to-be or her brother-in-law. The few trinkets they find are angrily chucked overboard. They decide to find Clarin.

1216, Early Morning, A Beach On The Coast of Normandy

We see that Roland is watching unseen as the sailors on the little boat set up a cry of "Murder!". Simon and Walter scramble ashore to disappear in the hinterland, while Roland ties another knot in his girdle.

1216, An Inn. The End of Simon and Walter.

Walter and Simon sip beer at an inn as they express their frustration at not having a clue where to find Clarin.

Simon is lured outside to interview a wench who has news for him. On approaching the girl, Roland leaps out of hiding and slits Simon's throat neatly. He pays off the weeping girl.

Then Roland seeks out Walter, and an exciting sword fight ensues. Walter is brought to his knees and quickly despatched by Roland.

1216 The End Of Roland And Clarin, In The Primeval L'Ardoyne Woods, Normandy.

There follows an exciting horse chase during a thunderstorm through the forest at L'Ardoyne.

Beside a young tree in a dip in the ground, Clarin is thrown from his horse and rolls into a badger hole which is situated in the hollow.

As the roaring dragon approaches, Roland weeps and prays. Solemnly, Roland raises his sword, then delivers the death stroke to Clarin. Thinking the younger man dead, he kneels to touch Clarin's face. Clarin, who has not heard the words of affection, springs to life and plunges his dagger deep into Roland's chest. Roland's dying form slumps on top of Clarin.

Three heavenly angels (Maggs, Elmer and the newborn baby) bring calm to the dragon and float to Earth in order to take Roland with them to Heaven. Clarin does not make the cut and is burned by the dragon's fire. The dragon rears up, striking the exact pose seen amongst the drawings which Nerine had shown to King George.

The last view that we see indicates that Clarin has been buried in the badger hole at the foot of a charred sapling.

1952, A Neat Hospital Ward In Oxford

Norm and Nerine are reunited in hospital as Norm awakes. They discuss what happened (except that Norm expurgates the gory bits). They marvel that the only ones to survive were King Henry III, his mother and Martin.

Although they discuss wedding plans, Norm is adamant that his first step must be to get to the Ardoygne Forest. Cavendish's assistant Markinson will be his best bet in this endeavour.

1952, Normandy. In A Large National Park

Our action is now centred on a park which is the French equivalent of Crown Land.

Norm must find the tree about which the badger hole lay. He strides about with Markinson and Cavendish in tow. Finally, Norm finds what he believes is the spot. He digs up a skull, believing this to be Clarin's. As he digs, Norm keeps the other two men enthralled with his tale about the end of Clarin's life. And then the dirty object which Norm drags from the earth proves to be the leather bag containing the jewels.

1952, A Brightly Decorated Ballroom.

A ball is in progress. It seems that Cavendish has achieved a masterstroke: the finding of the jewels will be advertised as "because of" the late King's project. The French government assisted the British government to discreetly return the Plantagenet jewels to the Crown.

It is also apparent that Norm and Nerine's marriage has the blessing of her father.

At the very end of the film, a guest at the punchbowl turns: he is the doppelganger for Sir Martin Lambden.

