



DRAMATIS PERSONAE

THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH THE "LA FOUILE DIG DIG!" PROGRAM

PROFESSOR AUGUST GODEFROY A large, bearded man in middle age, who wears a battered cloth cap, a well-worn hacking jacket complete with leather elbow patches and battered moleskin trousers. He speaks in a booming, deep voice and his roaring laugh is utterly infectious. Fluent in English.

MARIE-CLAUDE LORINET An ultra-thin woman in middle age. She has a geometric bob and wears a non-descript singlet dress over which she wears an aged denim jacket. Almost no English.

TRINCON LORINET The son of Marie-Claude is very tall and very slim. His hair is a complete bird's nest of blonde straw, and he dresses as if a matelot. He is oversexed. Speaks perfect English.

BISSOT PAGNOL A shortish, but thick-set muscleman in his mid-30s, who wears skimpy shorts and singlet (in all weather). His arms are covered in tattoos, and both ears are pierced. He is somewhat annoying: he persistently giggles, constantly flicking his head around to look into the camera as if his input to the show is of paramount importance. Has an appalling and salacious sense of humour.

ALICIA ALLENDALE Jason's sister and wife of Toby's eldest son Garth. Mother of tot Lily-Mae. Alicia despises Edwina.

DERNI CORFAGES A robust Alsatian who breeds the horses required for the show's battle scenes.

Crystal Orlop and Simon (runners for Alicia), an assistant to Derni, Founi and various Diggettes, the Osteologist, Doctor and nurses, other extras (photographer, etc).

EDWINA ALLENDALE born 1975

Aged 27 in 2002-3. She worked as a paralegal in London until quitting that job. However, she is a very talented artist.

Edwina is the daughter of LAURENCE ALLENDALE and TESS (nee BUXTON). After a hopeless first marriage (whereby she was disillusioned and verbally abused), Edwina plays the field. This earns for her the soubriquet "Slatterndale".

Other parts: the actress playing EDWINA also plays Celtish Eleana (Roman times) an unnamed Frankish girl and Madeleyne (Carolingian).

An early version of "Edwina" (Paleolithic): girl (a tot) being fed raw pony flesh on the Île De La Cité.

An early version of "Edwina" (Neolithic): curly haired young girl being fed fish on the Île De La Cité.

An early version of "Edwina" (Bronze Age): Rhoned who is given bread by her betrothed Leon (Île De La Cité).

RYLANCE "TRADER" BRADLEY born 1971

Aged 31 in 2002-3. His profession as an engineer has been kyboshed (he has been viciously undermined). This is sorted out in the next movie script.

Trader is the son of JACK BRADLEY and FIONA (nee BUXTON). He has split from his pregnant wife Sienna.

Trader is a very accomplished horseman, taking on any job he can which puts him in contact with horses. He is a tall man, tending to beefiness as did his father.

Other part: Braithe (Bronze Age).

JASON GLADSTONE born 1974

Aged 28 in 2002-3. By profession a geologist. He has worked in various places in the world, especially Canada.

Jason's friend (Garth – the eldest son of Toby and Maria) has married Jason's sister Alicia. This explains how Jason has come into contact with the French TV show.

Jason is a real surprise packet. In many ways, he is a cultured, sophisticated aesthete. And yet he is able to drink with the best of them, word perfect when singing any number of lewd French ditties. Jason could be at home at a performance of a string quartet or pulling brawling drunks apart in a Parisian bar. There is something admirable – even poignant – about Jason.

Other parts: the actor playing JASON also plays Celtish Viron (Roman times) an unnamed Frankish man and Gilles le Wildmay (Carolingian).

An early version of "Jason" (Paleolithic): boy (a tot) weeing in the River Seine.

An early version of "Jason" (Neolithic): one of the immigrants from the South. One of the boys leaping about, emulating warriors.

An early version of "Jason" (Bronze Age): Leon, whose brothers urge him to be kind to his betrothed (Rhoned).

VARIOUS FAMILY MEMBERS (Pendlebury, Allendale, Buxton and Bradley)

LISA PENDLEBURY William's wife and mother of their 5 daughters: Leah, Bethany, Louise, Simone, Courtney. They perform the Dolly Varden dance. They also entertain Lily-Mae.

WILLIAM PENDLEBURY Born 1954. Second son of Gordon and Holly. Air Commodore in the Royal Air Force. Married 1986 to LISA ARLINGTON.

GORDON & HOLLY PENDLEBURY Parents of George and William Pendlebury.

DAVID PENDLEBURY Born 1987. Younger son of GEORGE and SARAH PENDLEBURY.

BENITA PENDLEBURY Born 1984. Only daughter of GEORGE and SARAH PENDLEBURY.

(Not appearing in this film is the elder brother of Benita and David: GORDON "LAURIE" PENDLEBURY junior, born in 1980.)

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MARIA ALLENDALE Toby's wife.

TOBY ALLENDALE Born 1940. Elder son of ROGER and JUDITH ALLENDALE. Married MARIA MAYHEW-SPINKS in 1970. Actor and writer. Famed for a serious crime perpetrated against him in his childhood.

GARTH ALLENDALE Born 1972. Eldest son of Maria and Toby Allendale. Married to Alicia Gladstone (Jason's sister).

FRANCIS "TWITCH" ALLENDALE Born 1974. Second son of Maria and Toby Allendale.

GEOFFREY ALLENDALE Born 1975. Youngest son of Maria and Toby Allendale.

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TESS ALLENDALE Born 1946. Sister of Fiona Bradley. Daughter of Helene and famed archaeologist Professor Malcolm Buxton.

LAURENCE ALLENDALE Born 1946. Brother of Toby. He and Tess are the parents of Edwina.

TROY ALLENDALE Born 1977. Only son of LAURENCE and TESS ALLENDALE, and thus Edwina's brother.

JACK & FIONA BRADLEY (parents of Trader Bradley). Fiona's sister Tess is Edwina's mother.

MURRAY GULGUL trusted employee of Jack Bradley. Renowned Aboriginal elder.

SIENNA BRADLEY. Estranged wife of Trader Bradley.

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OTHERS:

White-coat (who investigates the bread in Edwina's mouth).

Madame Lachiene (Sienna's concierge)

Various hospital staff (doctors, nurses etc).

Airport security guards.

Count Christophe is a Swiss nobleman

Neil Markinson was a character in the first film M'Coure.

Canadian tough men (who work at the mine with Jason).

Dyn, Chehoth (Leon's father), Rhoned's mother, Leon's brothers, herald, King Charlemagne and his nobles, the cheesemaster.



## FULL SYNOPSIS

### ACT I

Trader Bradley (whose life always gravitates towards horses) is a barrier attendant at Melbourne metropolitan race meetings but has re-invented himself as Brad Rylance.

At Flemington racecourse, Edwina bumps into Trader after the last race. She has journeyed to Australia, to Melbourne to link-up with Twitch.

They recall former times with their respective families and Edwina explains her ghastly marriage (which she ended by her sleeping with a doctor) and subsequent divorce. Edwina also informs Trader (and thereby us, her audience) that she is following Twitch as a safety valve after all the drama of her failed marriage. As an aside to this, we also learn that Toby's eldest son (Garth) is married to the

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most obnoxious girl: Alicia. This bit of background becomes very important later, when Alicia's brother Jason and Edwina are thrown together.

### Edwina DREAM Level #1: PALEOLITHIC Île De La Cité

On what was to become the Île De La Cité, scantily-clad folk follow ponies which have been attacked by wolves. The crossing of the river is dangerous, especially for the children. The little girl is given collops of raw pony flesh to devour.

#### End of dream #1

In a Melbourne hotel, Edwina is distressed to imagine that she has blood from raw pony flesh in her mouth. Trader and Edwina (obviously enjoying an intimate relationship) discuss Trader's failed marriage to Sienna.

Trader and Edwina run Twitch to ground in a third-rate backpackers' hostel in Napier New Zealand. They learn from Twitch that he has scored a gig on a new French archaeology show on the TV. He leaves the startled cousins abruptly to catch his plane.

Evidently, Edwina follows Twitch. We next find her on an international flight to Paris.

### Edwina DREAM Level #2: NEOLITHIC Île De La Cité

Edwina awakes, believing that she has eaten raw fish. She despairs that her breath will be foetid.

Edwina smooches up to Count Christophe from Switzerland in the plane flying to Paris. They agree to keep in touch (literally!)

Lisa and William have five lovely daughters, who are just now performing a song and dance show for Holly and Gordon. A distressed Sienna (estranged wife of Trader) telephones from Paris. Lisa heads off for Paris immediately in order to comfort Sienna. Her arrival ends ACT I.

## ACT II

Sienna explains to Lisa that she has managed to obtain a really lucrative position and is keen to join the French TV show: "La Fouille Dig Dig!" This is based on her skill-set and contact base being exactly what the program will need, now that it is branching-out to undertake a 6-week English-language

version. But Sienna also reveals that her marriage to Trader had a side effect: she is now pregnant. Lisa promises to contact Trader and talk him into coming to Paris in order to liaise with his estranged wife.

Meanwhile, Edwina counts off the men she has had casual sex with (including Trader and Count Christophe) and thinks of herself as a slut.

We meet and begin to understand the characters who people the French TV show: “La Fouille Dig-Dig!”

Bissot and August habitually become antagonistic to each other under the influence of alcohol. At a trendy wine bar, a vicious fight develops out of nothing. Garth and Jason leap into action to separate the pair. They escort Bissot home. We come to realize that although Garth’s comprehension of the French language is minimal, Jason speaks French and comprehends spoken French without problem.

The character of Jason Gladstone is rich and involved. He is at once a high-brow with exquisite taste, and yet has a rough, tough side. Jason, his sister Alicia and her husband Garth (who is also a close personal friend of Jason’s) attend an avant-garde musical evening, where we learn that Alicia is an opinionated, self-absorbed bitch. She is tiring of her husband and toddler daughter. Garth is warm and likable. We (the audience) cannot decide whether to like Jason or not.

### Jason DREAM Level #1: PALEOLITHIC Île De La Cité

Jason is disturbed by a dream which feels like real life. He was a naked little boy who pissed into the River Seine.

Edwina has moved into the Parisian flat and begun to electronically produce her superb artwork. Twitch is impressed. He will display Edwina’s talent to the hirers at Dig-Dig in the belief that she can snare a job there.

Lisa drops by and learns that Lisa’s artwork is committed from memory. Lisa chooses NOT to tell Edwina that Trader’s ex-wife is pregnant. This ends ACT II.

## ACT III

*This ACT progresses the plot in many directions.*

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*The stones which Murray GulGul requires (those stolen from Arthur Pitch in England) must be found.*

*Many of the Buxton/Allendale clan are now working at, or are about to begin work at, the "Dig-Dig" show on the Île De La Cité. Thus, they join up with the Gladstones: Alicia and Jason. It would be politic at this point to remind everyone that both Trader and Edwina are grand-children of Malcolm Buxton (famous archaeologist).*

*The proximity of Jason and Edwina (who will give the appearance of hating one another) has the effect of enlivening the dream/visions which both have had.*

*The scene where Jason glances over Edwina's drawings and then becomes riveted is a watershed moment. She is seeing the same visions that he is!*

Neil Markinson ropes Toby in to recover the Albert Pitch mystic stones. Toby will require Laurie's expertise, contacts, authority and glib tongue in dealing with the Connaught Museum.

Jason Gladstone appears as guest geologist on "La Feuille Dig-Dig!" in a lovely shaded garden on Île De La Cité. Some of the other presenters on the show are impressed by Jason (for various reasons).

Also impressing the Dig-Dig crew is Edwina. Samples of her drawings, a description of her beauty and lovely figure, and her close relationship to Professor Buxton hand her the job of resident artist immediately.

### Jason DREAM Level #2: NEOLITHIC Île De La Cité

*This is a re-write of Edwina's second dream, but this for Jason. At this stage, neither Jason nor Edwina has realized that the island they are envisaging is the Île De La Cité.*

#### End of Dream #2 (Jason)

When Jason comes back to reality, he is once again at a wine bar being dragged-in (by Garth) to separate Dig-Dig combatants. This time it is a punch-on between August and Trincon. And Jason's back is aching for some reason.

Alicia awaits the arrival of Derni Curfages (an Alsatian legend) with his horse-actors. Derni is a huge hard-drinking, hard-living and uncontrollable man. Thus, Alicia warns that Derni must not be permitted to act out the part of rider himself.

### Edwina DREAM Level #3: Bronze Age Gauls On The Île De La Cité

### Edwina as Rhoned and Jason as Leon

*Now we are in the Bronze Age, and the Gauls have dug a Celtic fogou in the location of the famous crypts of Notre Dame Cathedral. Both Edwina and Jason will recognize this fogou from their visions. The Celts liked to hide their religious cells underground in the form of rock-lined fogous, which are simply man-made cellars or souterrains.*

Two Celts (Dyn and CheHoth) give an interesting insight into tribal life. The centre of religious worship is the fogou. However, it seems that life is so rewarding on the island that not much religious effort is required.

There is dealing and horse-trading. Dyn pledges his three daughters along with Rhoned and her mother in exchanged for livestock. CheHoth promises that Rhoned will be given to his youngest son (Leon) as a bride.

Leon chews some bread, giving some of this to Rhoned as a token of their betrothal.

#### End of dream #3 (Edwina).

Edwina had suffered the sensation of pony blood in her mouth, followed by raw fish. Now, Edwina's mouth contains bread. The bread is analysed by a white-coated diagnostic technician who is appalled and alarmed that Edwina should have dared to eat such a thing, 1000s of years old.

Jason had been offered the remaining berth at the flat but declined it (thinking that he would prefer to go it alone). He now regrets his earlier Stoicism, on finding that his spot has been taken by Edwina.

Jason visits the flat for a shower during Edwina's absence and happens to chance upon some of her drawings which bracingly force Jason to confront his past visions.

### Jason DREAM Level #1 REVISITED: PALEOLITHIC Île De La Cité

And then, after much puzzled wonderment from Jason ...

### Jason DREAM Level #3: Bronze Age Gauls On The Île De La Cité Jason as Leon and Trader as the Horse-whisperer Braithe

Now the penny drops and Jason realizes that he and Edwina are in some far-past iteration of the Île de la Cité. On questioning Geoff (the third of Toby's sons), Jason discovers that whereas his "back-to-earth" from his visions comes in the form of body pain, Edwina awakes with some foreign object in her mouth.

Jason is flabbergasted. He dresses and then wanders off, almost getting run down on the streets of Paris by irate drivers.

### Jason DREAM Level #3 REVISITED: Bronze Age Gauls On The Île De La Cité

In this vision, Leon is chivvied by his older brothers because the boy now has a bride to care for. Braithe's horse is sacrificed by Braithe who senses the strength and peace of this island. The carcass of Braithe's mount is carved up with finicky exactitude nearby the entrance to the fogou. Each portion of flesh is placed reverently on the ground, to be buried in the prescribed manner.

Leon admits to being unsure of what to do with this new bride he has been offered. As the men roar with laughter to hear such an admission, Leon is told to feed the girl: to share his food with her. This gives rise to the existence of bread in Edwina's mouth.

At the dig, Lisa re-introduces Edwina and Sienna. This proves really uncomfortable for Edwina.

Busy at her sketching on the outskirts of Notre Dame, Edwina suffers an even more uncomfortable confrontation with August, who up until now has favoured her way above all others.

August is amazed and suspicious that Edwina has drawn so faithfully a Gallic fogou which is not known to exist. Deciding on a strategy of counter-attack, Edwina defends her drawing as being based on common sense.

Edwina's fogou is duly discovered in part of the fascinating crypts under Notre Dame, leading to a flurry of excited activity. This totally unexpected discovery produces a stunning episode of the show, featuring many of Edwina's sketches. And so ACT III ends.

## ACT IV

Fiona Bradley (nee Buxton, Malcolm's elder daughter) hears from Murray GulGul essential information. Murray needs to speak to the stones; not just the Albert Pitch stones, but also the large

man/woman stone found within the bowels of Notre Dame Cathedral. Murray seeks retribution for Trader, and an end to the “dreams/visions” of the interlinked families. He hints that a very important man will bring the stone to him. [This will be William Pendlebury.] He also warns that someone will be hurt and another will die before he has finished his mystical doings.

On the grass of Île De La Cité, outside the Notre Dame Cathedral, Jason urgently tells the diggers that they must dig in THIS exact spot as they'll find the remains of a horse. Jason is remembering his stint as Leon, and Braithe's horse which was ritualistically slaughtered.

With much drama and the assistance of an osteologist, one of the presenters (for the only time speaking in English) admits to Jason that he was correct, and that a dismembered horse has been found.

Ever the she-cat (when not being a bitch) Alicia tears apart what are left of Sienna's nerves. Under the guise of a pleasant shopping expedition, Alicia asks Sienna to confirm that she is pregnant, then continues by ripping into “Slatterndale”, accusing her of maintaining her liaison with Trader, Sienna's estranged husband.

Jason almost makes a fool of himself forgetting that he is not Leon and that Trader is not Braithe when introduced to Trader.

A situation arises whereby the actor booked to impersonate a mounted Frankish warrior refuses to ride Derni's magnificent but feisty stallion. The stunt double is a tiny man, and anyway, the stallion displays a rooted dislike to the stunt double. Rain begins to fall when out of the mist strides Trader.

As if in reality the horse-whisperer Braithe, Trader calms the beast with petting, stroking and whispers. When instructed by Derni (using mime) Trader hauls himself up onto the steed, he rides about as easily as if on a trained pony.

Derni shouts in excitement through the rain (in French): “This man must ride my horse”.

From that moment, the production of the 6-part series takes a decided turn for the better. Trader appears in the segments requiring a rider, costumed as appropriate to the period under discussion.

Garth and Jason accompany Bissot and Trincon to a boxing match, where the Frenchmen are feted. On strolling back, Bissot quizzes Jason about his relationship with Edwina. When Jason baldly

announces that there IS no relationship, Bissot is surprised. To him, they look at each other with great affection.

To Jason, this could not be further from the truth. He calls Edwina "Slatterndale" to his sister during another of their cultural evenings. Indeed the affair between Edwina and the much older Swiss count reminds them both of "Last Tango In Paris".

Jason and Edwina both DREAM Level #4: ROMAN LUTETIA  
Jason as Viron and Edwina as Eleana

*The island is much more developed now than it was in the time of CheHoth, Dyn, Rhoned, Leon and Braithe. There are many roundhouses and other assorted buildings. Of particular interest is an area set aside for the production of bronze. Primitive kilns can be seen in active use, with men bent over them.*

Viron and his girlfriend Eleana are enjoying some heavy petting in a lovely garden when Viron hears distant drums. Viron rushes off to alert the other Gauls. Men, women and children take position with any possible weapon in order to stave-off the Romans who are about to take control of Île De La Cité. We see that the Roman troops are supremely equipped and drilled.

The Romans erect a bridge, even as they come under fire from the Gauls, and then breach the stone wall which supposedly protects the islanders. Despite the bravery and ferocity of the Gauls, the Romans easily take control.

The Gallic men have leg-irons and chains clamped onto their ankles; the sobbing women are herded away. One of these women (Eleana) makes a desperate attempt to help her lover by offering him water, even to the chagrin of the Roman overlords.

Three years later, Lutetia bears all the stamp of a Roman outpost, and Viron has been romanized. Eleana is slave to a patrician. Viron and Eleana steal away for a passionate flirtation: the taste of Viron's kiss remains on Edwina's lips when she wakes.

End of Dream #4 [During this dream, we see that both Edwina and Jason suffered broken, disturbed sleep. But, when they wake, both Edwina and Jason evidence huge elation. Later, Jason laughingly complains of having shagger's back.]

Jason races over to Twitch's flat (shared by Geoff, Edwina and 2 others) for his daily shower in Edwina's absence.

Hungrily, he checks out Edwina's latest artistic offering and is jubilant beyond measure that she has portrayed the Viron/Eleana tryst.

After his shower, and while still naked, Jason makes himself master of Edwina's PC such that he can gorge himself on the memories that they have unwittingly shared. Engrossed as he is, Jason is surprised by Edwina's sudden return to the flat. She sees Jason stark naked at her PC and is hit for six. Jason speedily retreats.

Still the pair of would-be lovers do not, will not and cannot speak to each other.

Poor Edwina and poor Jason are unceremoniously pushed together (due to something concerning the program) but cannot communicate. They are lost in embarrassment.

Edwina treats Trader in a jolly, cousinly way to protect herself from looking too interested in him.

Trader and Sienna discuss their expected son whom Sienna wants to call Brandon (after her brother). Trader could not be more uninterested, disappointing Sienna. And thus ends ACT IV.

## ACT V

A skull has been discovered in a mass grave indicating that its original owner was killed by burning coals having been placed in the mouth. The Dig-Dig experts wonder why this might have been.

The 6-part English-language Dig-Dig is going wonderfully, and yet the participants evidence brooding discontent. This is thrashed-out in a van, whereby the following issues are covered (under a cloud of funny cigarettes and Dorni's favourite tipple):

- Founi's role as voice-over for the cartoon Carni has been given to Edwina.
- August grates at the thought of Jason calmly pointing to the exact spot where a ritual horse burial has taken place, and Edwina's drawings predicting the crouching fogou exactly as it was found to be (even though she is his idol's grand-daughter).
- They are unsettled at the thought of the dreams/visions and by the bread in Edwina's mouth.

- Although it would be politic to eject Jason and Edwina from the show, they have scored highly with a test audience.

In the Ladies' room, Crystal becomes enmeshed in the undercurrent of suspicion and contempt surrounding Alicia, Edwina, Sienna and Founi.

After the group photo is taken, we witness a tender moment between Sienna and Garth.

Party: A farewell party is held to mark the end of filming for the British version of Dig-Dig.

Trader holds forth on the powers of Murray GulGul. In this way, Trader allows us to understand that Murray could not be brought to France to practise his telepathic skills but must remain in situ in Australia. That they must go to him.

Derni leads some of the party guests in singing. Jason is pushed forward to stand next to Derni and so surprises and stuns everyone by joining in with a brace of rude French songs, word perfect.

Alone at the bar, Trincon passes on to Garth Bissot's reading of Jason: that he was well-brought up and is a cultured, cultivated man at heart. However, owing to years of working among hard, tough men in the Canadian wilderness, Jason has developed a bullet-proof exterior and hardened mind. Trincon suggests that Jason's mooted trip back to Canada is an escape valve to avoid Edwina. And Trincon also suggests that Garth's own marriage might be in danger.

#### End of party

As a background voice-over (Edwina sleeps through a taped program) August discusses the sack of Rome, the role of the plague in the 5<sup>th</sup> century along with the Teutonic tribes.

The Franks find the village to be plague-ridden. Their method of attack is to place burning coal and embers into the mouths of the sick, in order to burn away the pestilence. The "Edwina" character suffers this fate.

#### Jason DREAM Level #5: The Frankish Invasion Of Île De La Cité

Likewise the "Jason" character is knifed in the leg whilst fighting heroically to save his plague-ridden family.

Edwina in 2002 spits out burning coals, becoming injured both internally and externally.

On waking in agony, Jason has indeed suffered knife wounds to his legs.

In separate ambulances, Jason and Edwina are ferried to hospital.

Jason takes charge of a wheelchair and gets himself from the 9<sup>th</sup> level down to the 3<sup>rd</sup> level, where he knows Edwina to be. Rushing past the police (who are suffering Garth's pantomime explanation of what happened), Jason flings himself (in the wheelchair) into Edwina's room, where a doctor and nurse tend to Edwina's wounds.

Jason is sent on his way by the medical professionals, but is determined to stay, uttering the clincher: "The subterfuge is over. There can be no turning back."

Jason is permitted to remain with Edwina, by intimating that he is her fiancé.

At the head of the bed on which Edwina lies unconscious, Jason takes the girl's hand in his: it is the first time he has touched her physically. Looking woebegone he caresses Edwina's hand, kissing it many times.

The professionals are keen to know who could have perpetrated this barbaric outrage – and why. Jason prevaricates: they were both attacked at a party.

Jason and Edwina both DREAM Level #6: The FRANKS And Early Medieval Île De La Cité

Superb medieval scenes are accompanied by a voice-over delivering a dissertation on the Franks. King Clovis is hailed. That brings ACT V to a close.

## ACT VI

The rest of the film works on two distinct levels of build-up.

*First, the latent feelings of attraction between Edwina and Jason increase in intensity. Despite being completely separated (in the geographical sense), they fall very deeply in love with each other.*

*We have to finish off the "dreams" of Frankish Paris, which occur over a short space of time (say, one week). The dreams will be broken-up for artistic effect. During this time, Jason will make his way to Athabasca, Canada for a 30 week stint as the geologist at an oil sands operation in the bleak*

wilderness. Edwina will be transported home under the overseeing of Air Commodore Pendlebury DFC.

We will observe the strong feelings they have for each other (unexpressed) as Jason struggles manfully against the elements in Canada, and Edwina's pregnancy continues to her seventh month (by which time Jason returns and they come to terms with their relationship.)

The dreams centre on King Charlemagne: his retainers, his servants, the Carolingian way of life. A suggestion appears (via the ex-"DigDig" cast) that the very nature of French courtly love and the romance of medieval literature was inculcated in Carolingian times. This is of course a reference back to Edwina/Jason as well as to the characters they represent in the visions.

**Footnote: it will involve less messing about now that we have reached this late stage if we simply ignore stating which of the pair had which dream. We shall simply show the remaining dreams and be done with it.**

Second, there is a huge crescendo (loads of breath-taking CGI) related to the lifting of the family curse by Murray GulGul. This occurs as soon as Edwina's daughter (whom she names Paris) is born. Also vital is the surrender of Enid's opal ring by Trader. One of the family dies, and the funeral/wake ties-up all the loose ends.

Jason and Edwina both DREAM Level #6: PART I  
The Carolingian FRANKS And Early Medieval Île De La Cité

Here we pick up the fact that Charlemagne had immense power and authority as King of the Franks.

End of dream.

In spite of his crutches, Jason determinedly packs to leave Paris for Canada.

William (Air Commodore Pendlebury) and Laurie organize for Edwina's safe carriage to her plane at Orly airport.

Jason and Edwina both DREAM Level #6: PART II LAST DREAM  
The Carolingian FRANKS And Early Medieval Île De La Cité  
Jason as Gilles and Edwina as Madeleyne

The insouciant Gilles is a knight of the Carolingian court and Madeleyne is a farm worker. Gilles plans to have his family sponsor Madeleyne in order that she can be raised high enough for him to marry. The delightful interchanges take place amidst a panoply of medieval scenes.

End of dream.

At Heathrow, William and Laurie get the sobbing Edwina into an Air Force limousine. At the same time, Jason is flying to Alberta.

Jason and Edwina both DREAM Level #6: PART III  
The Carolingian FRANKS And Early Medieval Île De La Cité  
Jason as Gilles and Edwina as Madeleyne

There is a ferocious battle scene in which Gilles is very heroic and skilled as a warrior. [Note \*\*\*]

Gilles enjoys a revealing (and rude!) one-way conversation with his horse.

End of dream.

As usual after having one of his visions, Jason feels some pain. This time, it is his chest. We learn this whilst Jason's baggage is searched: some rocks which August presented to him have earned the suspicion of airport officials.

We glimpse Edwina settled back at her old home, Gladesbrook. But she is still bereft.

Jason and Edwina both DREAM Level #6: PART IV  
The Carolingian FRANKS And Early Medieval Île De La Cité  
Jason as Gilles and Edwina as Madeleyne

*This is the pivotal scene of the entire film.*

*In this romantic scene whereby the lovers suck honeysuckle, Madeleyne and Gilles marry and then make love.*

*It is here that the baby of Edwina and Jason (Paris) is conceived.*

*This is the last of the "dreams" in the entire series, as Murray GulGul will effectively break the family curse at the end of the film.*



*French accent thrown-in on top of that.*

*Jason has followed the trend of most of the mining men and allowed his whiskers to grow. All the men in our film are heavily bearded. The advance of Jason's beard growth will indicate the passing of the 30 weeks.*

*In the open pit mine itself, anyone we can actually see is kitted-out in safety gear. The refining structures and machinery are huge, serious-looking, heavy and loud, with actual humans seldom seen.*

Jason is being sent out to the wilderness by helicopter.

On all sides, he is alone a featureless wasteland. Jason remembers Eleana, running eagerly towards him. In frustration, Jason hikes off, finding the skeleton of a pony. Jason imagines Leon and Braithe cantering down from the current Montmartre towards the river.

Sienna gives birth to her son. Garth visits her and is very solicitous. [In film #5, these two will be married and have a son of their own, who stars in that film.]

To while away the time during Edwina's pregnancy, we see snatches of Jason working hard and playing hard at the mine, and Edwina recovering in a glow of love. Emails received by Jason keep him (and us the audience) in touch with the latest news. Edwina has started to become sick (we learn) and Alicia and Garth look like splitting up. Emails also provide Edwina's artwork as attachments: Jason prints these out and lovingly attaches them to the walls of his stark cabin.

August holds forth on the nature of chivalry and ties it into the veneration of Mary.

Out in the wilderness, Jason imagines that he is once again Gilles, hunting ducks on a marsh with King Charlemagne, attended by Madeleyne who brings sustenance to the men.

By Christmas Eve, the miners have received and watched the DVDs of the 6-part English language Dig-Dig show. When Jason is among them, they ply him with embarrassing questions about Edwina.

The break-up between Alicia and Garth progresses and is now open knowledge.

Just as Jason tries to compose an email to his sister, she launches her own venomous attack, in which she crows over Edwina (who is pregnant to someone or other) and admits to her brother that her marriage is at an end. Her email confirms to Jason that his sister really is a bitch.

It is Twitch who changes everything: his email confirms that Edwina is 6-months gone and that no male came near her at Gladesbrook so it is all very mysterious. Edwina could not be happier (he claims) and extols the virtues of honeysuckle.

Jason finally takes the plunge and (as a mix of Jason and Gilles) sends a beautiful email to Edwina, to whom he has never spoken. He quickly receives an excited and love-filled reply in return.

Jason shaves off his beard. His hair has been cut, and he is packing for his return to England.

When Maria collects Jason from the airport and drives him to Gladesbrook, they discuss the weird scenario of Jason having fathered Edwina's child. Jason simply reminds her of her own "mischief" on the Old Silk Road to clinch the argument.

Jason visits Edwina. They ease themselves into this "new" relationship, basing their love on that between Gilles and Madeleyne. They plan to marry. Later, they will explain to Paris that she is Jason's child and leave it at that.

Paris is born. She is utterly beautiful and welcomed with great affection and wonderment by her parents.

## **MURRAY GULGUL, "THE BIG SHOW" & HOLLY PENDLEBURY**

The prelude featuring Murray GulGul begins a theme which recurs throughout the film. It is (in some ways) a rehash of the central story to "M'Couré". Neil Markinson provides the bridge between Englishman Twitch, and the Australian native sitting cross-legged at his fire.

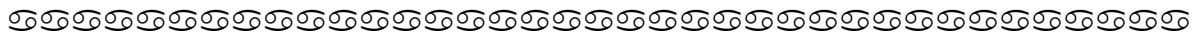
Murray correctly identifies a skull as that of a Carolingian knight (whom we shall later meet).

Although Murray is able to "read the bones", he explains to Twitch Allendale (this is Francis Allendale, Toby's son) that he cannot decipher shards of pottery. That is the province of a New Zealander. Thus, Twitch is sent to Napier.

We learn such a lot in this prelude: the narrative affects the entire course of the film. In brief, Murray needs the stones which were stolen from Albert Pitch in England and became keystones for

entry into Westania (the Druidic land). Not only will Murray be able to advise as to what all these stones tell us, but he will be able to break the cycle of weird dreams besetting the families: Buxton, Allendale and Pendlebury.

***Edwina starts her journey back in time from this point.***



Following the horrible injuries sustained by Edwina as a Frankish girl, there is a family discussion.

The family gather under Lisa's aegis to sort things out. In a wonderful scene, with lots of meaty dialogue, the salient points are these:

- The family curse has to be lifted before somebody dies, as predicted by Murray.
- The museum in Ireland which tenaciously clings to the Australian stones (refer back to "M'Coure") MUST relinquish them for Murray to examine.
- August has been expressly permitted to take the world-famous "man/woman" stone to Australia for Murray to examine.
- The truth of Jack Bradley's parentage is revealed.

The person hurt was of course Edwina. But now (sadly) the person who dies is Holly. She seems to know that her time has come, in that she makes some preparations. Then she insists on being taken to the river, such that she can relive the "little boat" incident of 1936. This time, it is her mother who comes to collect the young Holly. She is deceased by the time Maria reaches her side, bearing the tea-tray.

Murray receives the stones he so eagerly awaits from William and August. Genesis Sacroretigraphy is used to explain how come Murray needs the man/woman stone. We were all once a single race. That's all that's behind it. We shared our understanding of how things started. These fellas lived off the land just like my fellas once did.

From the heat haze, a mob of brumbies approaches. In spite of August's evident impatience, Murray does not advance in his quest. When questioned, Murray claims that one stone is missing: an opal.

Murray brightens, claiming that now all will be right. Trader will be vindicated.

And out of the heat haze, Trader rides up. He hands over his opal ring (that had belonged to his mother Enid Finchett) to Murray. The brumbies rush about, indicating that something will happen.

***Murray's CGI Show***

*This is a representation (as realistic as possible) of the geological timeline, beginning with the genesis of planet Earth. We view the formation of seas, volcanoes, orogens, sandy beaches and mountain ranges. Life itself will begin in the warm frothy corner of a tropical sea.*

*During the entire "show", our four men will remain as they were, but looking about in wonder at the evolution spread around them.*

*The first amphibians and early reptiles will wander past them, followed by some birds and dinosaurs, primitive mammals, modern mammals and then Paleolithic man. Part of a wallaby's skull has opalized: we see this occur.*

*Finally, a large hand slowly quiets the tumultuous "show". We slide back into the original desolation of the mulga district.*

August is moved beyond words by Murray's show.

Murray assures the men that the curse is over and that Trader will get vindication for the wrongs done to him.

William is thankful that no-one died. But Murray contradicts him. As yet, the news of Holly's demise has not reached them.

At the hotel where the men are staying, William receives an instruction to "call Segler"; and he is filled with misgiving. Maria and George await William's phone call. The sad news is conveyed.

Gordon in speaking to William remembers his time in Westania (refer Film #1) and then predicts many of the events that we shall see in Film #5.

The ending is rather poignant, with Toby and other family members meeting at the River Thames at Segler's Landing.

~ FINIS~