

The Lion in Winter- (HENRY as he joins ELEANOR on the floor by the tree)

**HENRY**

I talk like that to keep her spirits up.  
Well, how'd you do with Richard?  
Did you break his heart?

**ELEANOR**

You think he ought to give me back the Aquitaine?

**HENRY**

I can't think why he shouldn't.  
After all, I've promised him the throne.

**ELEANOR**

The boy keeps wondering if your promises are any good.

**HENRY**

There's no sense asking if the air's  
good when there's nothing else to breathe.

**ELEANOR**

Exactly what I told him.

**HENRY**

Have you got it? Will he give it back?

**ELEANOR**

No Aquitaine for John.

**HENRY**

I've got to give him something.  
Isn't some agreement possible?

**ELEANOR**

Love, in a world where carpenters get resurrected,  
anything is possible.

**HENRY**

You bore him, dammit: he's your son.

**ELEANOR**

Oh, heavens yes. Two hundred eighty days  
I bore him. I recall it all. You'd only just found Rosamund.

**HENRY**

Why her so damn particularly?  
I've found other women.

**ELEANOR**

Countless others

**HENRY**

What's your count? Let's have a tally  
of the bedspreads you've spread out on.

**ELEANOR**

Thomas Becket's.

**HENRY**

That's a lie!

**ELEANOR**

I know it. You still care what I do.

**HENRY**

I want the Aquitaine for John!  
I want it and I'll have it!

**ELEANOR**

Is that menace you're conveying?  
Is it to be torture?  
Will you boil me or stretch me, which?  
Or am I to be perforated?

**HENRY**

I have the-documents and you will sign.

**ELEANOR**

How can you force me to? Threats?  
Sign or I refuse to feed your Tears?  
Oh, sign before my heart goes crack.  
Bribes, offers, deals. I'm like the earth,  
old man; there isn't any way around me.

**HENRY**

I adore you.

**ELEANOR**

Save your aching arches.  
That road's closed.

**HENRY**

I've got an offer for you, ma jolie.

**ELEANOR**

A deal, a deal. I give the richest province  
on the Continent to John for what.  
You tell me, mastermind. For what.

**HENRY**

Your Freedom

**ELEANOR**

Oh.

**HENRY**

Once Johnny has the Aquitaine, you're free.  
I'll let you out.  
Think on the loose in London,  
winters in Provence,  
impromptu trips to visit Richard anywhere he's killing people.  
All that for a signature.

**ELEANOR**

You 're good.

**HENRY**

I thought it might appeal to you.  
You always fancied traveling.

**ELEANOR**

Yes, I did. I even made poor Louis take me on Crusade.  
How's that for blasphemy?  
I dressed my maids as Amazons  
and rode bare-breasted half way to Damascus.  
Louis had a seizure and I damn near died of sun  
burn but the troops were dazzled.  
Henry, I'm against the wall.  
To be a prisoner, to be bricked in  
when you've known the world --  
I'll never know how I've survived.  
These ten years, Henry, have been unimaginable.  
And now you offer me the only thing I want  
if I give up the only thing I treasure.

**HENRY**

Sign them and we'll break the happy news.  
The Queen is free, John gets the Aquitaine  
and Richard marries Alais.

**ELEANOR**

Yes. Let's have it done. I'll sign.  
On one condition.

**HENRY**

Name it.

**ELEANOR**

Having the wedding now.  
Why, I've surprised you.  
Surely it's not sudden.  
They've been going down the aisle  
for sixteen years and that's a long walk.  
John can be the best man -- that's a laugh --  
and you can give the bride away.  
I'd love to watch you do it.

**HENRY**

Alais -- I can live without her.

**ELEANOR**

And I thought you loved her.

**HENRY**

So I do.

**ELEANOR**

Thank god. You frightened me:  
I was afraid this wouldn't hurt.

Beat

I wonder, do you ever wonder  
if I slept with Geoffrey?

**HENRY**

With my father?

**ELEANOR**

It's not true but one hears rumors.  
Don't you ever wonder?

**HENRY**

Is it rich, despising me?  
Is it rewarding?

**ELEANOR**

No -- it's terrible.

**HENRY**

Then stop it!

**ELEANOR**

How? It's what I live for!

**HENRY**

Rosamund I loved you!

I'll show you. By Christ, I will.  
I'll do it. Where's a priest?  
Somebody dig me up a priest.  
Bring me a bishop.

**ELEANOR**

Get old Durham. He's just down the hall.  
Ask him to meet us in the chapel.

**HENRY**

John! Richard! Geoffrey!

*(He storms off down the hall. ELEANOR follows serenely after. )*