

# Drawbridge Exercise

As he left for a visit to his outlying districts, the **Baron** warned his new wife: 'Do not leave the castle while I am gone, or I will punish you severely when I return!' But as the hours passed, the young, independent minded **Baroness** grew restless; despite her husband's warning she decided to visit her childhood **Friend**, who lived with her husband as a serf in the country side nearby.

The castle was situated on an island in a wide, fast flowing river. A drawbridge linked the island to the mainland at the narrowest point of the river. 'Surely my husband will not return before the evening' she thought, and ordered her servants to lower the bridge and leave it down until her return.

After spending several pleasant hours in the company of her old friend, the Baroness returned to the drawbridge, only to find it blocked by a **Gateman** wildly waving a long, cruel knife. 'Do not attempt to cross this bridge Baroness, or I will have to kill you' the Gateman cried. 'The Baron ordered me to do so, as you have proven yourself untrustworthy and disloyal by refusing to obey him.'

The Baroness then sought out a **Boatman** on the river, explaining her plight to him, and asked him to take her across the river in his boat. 'I will do it, but only if you can pay my fees of five marks,' he responded. 'But I have no money with me,' the Baroness protested. 'That's too bad. No money, no ride,' the Boatman said flatly.

Fearing for her life the Baroness returned to her friend and asked for help. 'I love you dearly,' the friend said. 'But I don't have five marks to give you; such is the life of serf's wife, you must seek help elsewhere.'

Her fear growing, the Baroness ran crying to a neighbouring manor and after explaining her desperate situation to the baroness, there begged for enough money to pay the boatman his fee. 'If you had not disobeyed your husband, this would not have happened.' the **Neighbor** said. 'If I were to help you I would risk rousing my husband's fury, I will give you no money.'

With evening approaching and her last resource exhausted, the Baroness returned to the drawbridge in desperation, attempted to cross to the castle, and was slain by the Gateman.

