

Lily Dodge

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WORK SAMPLE

Genre: Medieval Romance

TITLE: The Knight's Bride

WORDCOUNT: 40-60k words

GENRE: Medieval Romance

Opening Image/ Hook

While running an errand for her single and over-protective mum, Emelyn is captured by a violent gang of traffickers known as the Highland Bandits, and taken down to their boat tied up at the River Severn. Tane, a knight out patrolling against these specific bandits, hears Emelyn's cries for help discovers across the crew and rescues Emelyn.

Inciting Incident

Tane gallantly takes Emelyn back to her little village, but it's clear that he's uncomfortable around the very poor villagers. He claims to worry about his men getting into trouble in the rough area, and though he walks her to her door, he leaves quickly.

End of the Beginning

Emelyn discovers that her mother is gone, likely dead, and the place has been ransacked. She spends a miserable night there - unable to stop thinking about Tane - then realizes she needs to find a way to make it on her own. She starts working at a tavern along the river, where she runs into Tane and his men again, since they've posted up in the area.

Tane returns to visit her at the tavern, then when he discovers she's been sleeping in the stables with the other help, pays for her to keep a cleaner room there. When he shows her to her room, Tane offers to remain for the night to protect her, and she accepts.

In his chivalrous way, Tane stays posted outside her bedroom door. Emelyn has trouble falling asleep, knowing that the handsome man who's been consuming all her thoughts is just outside. Tane feels the same way, pacing restlessly all night while reminding himself that he is a gentleman and a knight and can't start a relationship with a village girl.

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Midpoint

The winter thaws, and Tane spends the springtime visiting Emelyn at her tavern and courting her in the name of offering protection from the gang who tried to kidnap her. But when it becomes clear that the traffickers have cleared out of the area, Tane and his men are called back to the castle, where he must attend to his noble duties.

Tane wants to invite her back home with him, but he can't take someone from her background as his wife because he's still committed to his nobility. When Tane tells Emelyn that he needs to go back to the castle, she becomes upset and pleads with him to stay.

Crisis

Tane suggests that he find a job for Emelyn at his castle, perhaps in the kitchen. Emelyn is hurt and offended at the suggestion. She wouldn't fit in as a village girl among all the lady's maids, and she definitely doesn't want to be a servant to Tane. She kicks Tane out of the tavern, insisting that she can make it on her own, thank you very much.

Back at the knight's camp, as they're packing up for the last time, Tane has a serious conversation with his men about his love for Emelyn and realizes that he has to make a choice. He knows what he has to do.

Climax

The men are all packed up and prepared to leave. As the knights and their squires ride through town, with all their banners and armor, the townsfolk have gathered to see them off. Emelyn watches them from the tavern, miserable but too proud to run down to Tane.

As the knights are about to head out of the city gates, Tane has a change of heart and rides back to town, galloping as fast as his horse can take him. He rushes into the tavern and kisses the lowly barmaid in front of everyone. He asks her to be his Lady Emelyn, and she accepts. They ride back to the castle together.

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Resolution

Back at the castle, Tane introduces her to his family as Lady Emelyn, announces that they are to be married, and praises her courage and strength.