

Age of Empires 2: The Fall

written by

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INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - DAY

ADVISOR and KING HAROLD are standing over a war table looking at a map.

KING HAROLD
Tell me again.

ADVISOR
Scouts report that the Franks are gathering at our northern border here.
(ADVISOR points to a location on the map)
Their numbers are so great that it can mean only one thing.

Beat.

ADVISOR (CONT'D)
Invasion.

KING HAROLD
Yes I got that. How many?

ADVISOR
According to the scout's report,
(ADVISOR pulls out a paper and looks at it)
It was exactly "A whole flipping lot of them".

KING HAROLD
Oh no. Where is the scout now?

ADVISOR
I'm afraid he didn't make it back.

KING HAROLD
But then how do we have the report?

ADVISOR
There are some mysteries of life that can never be explained.

Beat.

KING HAROLD
What of the Celts? Are we allied with them?

ADVISOR
No, I'm afraid talks fell through after their ambassador was killed.

KING HAROLD

But he was shot by one of the Franks, it's not our fault that happened in our territory.

ADVISOR

No, not that one, the one you executed.

KING HAROLD

Well if he didn't want to be executed he shouldn't have had such a stupid accent. Guy had it coming.

ADVISOR

None the less the Celtic queen saw that as a provocation, so now they have allied themselves with the Franks and are preparing to invade us as well.

KING HAROLD

Oh. Well that's not good.

ADVISOR

No indeed.

KING HAROLD

Well, you're my advisor, what do you think?

ADVISOR

What do I think? What do I think?

KING HAROLD

That was the question.

ADVISOR

You have been an absolute failure as king. Not only have you opted to not create military units in favor of hoarding wealth, you have also neglected improving the ones we already have. For defenses you have causes to be erected a wall in which huge gaps have been left that make it altogether useless. And what have you had your scribes researching? Do they research ways to improve our defenses? To stop the enemy from leveling us? No. Your greatest priority was researching sappers. Sappers.

(MORE)

ADVISOR (CONT'D)

One of the most useless technologies there is. In short, we are utterly defenseless, so the only thing for you to do is to surrender.

Beat.

KING HAROLD

Take him to the dungeons.

ADVISOR

What?

KING HAROLD

Get him out of my sight.

GUARDS walk up and begin to carry ADVISOR off.

ADVISOR

No, wait, I was just joking, please-

KING HAROLD

Too late. Send in the other councilor.

FAYE enters and stands at the table.

KING HAROLD (CONT'D)

Wait, aren't you that peasant that I sent out to build a new town center?

FAYE

No.

KING HAROLD

Are you sure? You look exactly like her.

FAYE

But I'm wearing a different dress.

KING HAROLD

Fair enough. I assume you know what's going on.

FAYE

Yes.

KING HAROLD

Good. Could you explain it to me?

FAYE

Basically, we're doomed.

Beat.

KING HAROLD

Wow, that was way more concise than that last guy.

FAYE

Thanks. There is a small chance, though.

KING HAROLD

What is it?

FAYE

First we need to build a few more barracks. Then we need to begin creating as many troops as troops as we possibly can.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

And so King Harold decided to do what his advisor suggested, in an attempt to save his pathetic, miserable little life-

KING HAROLD

Hey, I can have you executed!

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Harold the Great began constructing barracks. He had to spend a lot of his precious gold, but, he thought, was gold really worth more than not being dead?

KING HAROLD shrugs.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And so it was that when the combined armies of the Franks and Celts invaded the Britons were able to meet them in the field with an army of their own. The battle was long, arduous, laborious, and other words that mean difficult. But in the end, victory was claimed.

KING HAROLD

Well that didn't go very well.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
By the Franks.

FAYE
Yeah, they wiped out our army.
They'll be at the castle in a few
minutes.

KING HAROLD
I guess this is the end for us.

FAYE
Speak for yourself. I'm planning on
getting converted by one of their
priests.

KING HAROLD
Good for you. Well, since I only
have a few moments left in this
world, I know what I want to spend
them doing.

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

ADVISOR is about to be executed. KING HAROLD is watching and
FAYE is standing next to him.

KING HAROLD
You stand accused of treason, back
talking and being a general
annoyance. How plead you?

FAYE leans over and whispers in KING HAROLD's ear.

FAYE
He's not standing.

ADVISOR
Well-

KING HAROLD
Good.

KING HAROLD signals the executioner who then chops off
ADVISOR's head. KING HAROLD smiles. Then an arrow falls fromt
he sky and lodges in KING HAROLD's eye. KING HAROLD sinks to
his knees and collapses.

THE END