

TITLE
Mount and Blade: Recruit Your Men

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INT. TAVERN - EVENING

ENGINEER is sitting at a table in the corner by himself.
PORZIANO walks up and sits down.

PORZIANO
Greetings, friend! I am Porziano,
and I am looking for someone to
share in a little venture of mine.

ENGINEER
Sorry, I've no interest in magic
rings.

PORZIANO
I don't care about enchanted
trinkets, I need someone of your
particular abilities.

ENGINEER
And what would those be?

BARMAID walks by. PORZIANO stops her.

PORZIANO
Bread and ale.

PORZIANO turns back to ENGINEER.

PORZIANO (CONT'D)
You are an engineer, are you not?

ENGINEER
Why should I tell you that?

PORZIANO
I don't need you to. I already paid
the landlord of this fine
establishment to tell me that.

ENGINEER
Then why'd you ask?

PORZIANO
Why do I do anything?

ENGINEER
How should I know? I don't even
know who you are.

PORZIANO

I told you when I came in. I am Porziano, and I'm looking for someone to share in a little venture of mine.

ENGINEER

So we're back to that, are we?

PORZIANO

Never left it. So what do you say?

ENGINEER

What do I say? All you've told me is you need an engineer for a venture. That's not enough information. I need details about what's to be done, the amount I'll be paid.

PORZIANO

Right, well, here's how it is. I've aspirations far beyond my current situation in life. To that end I've assembled an army and have laid plans to attack and subsequently capture a castle for myself. I am, however lacking an engineer, because apparently building ladders is beyond ordinary soldiers.

ENGINEER

Attacking a castle? Are you being serious?

PORZIANO

Serious as a baker's son.

ENGINEER

That doesn't make any sense.

PORZIANO

Noted. Now what do you say?

ENGINEER pauses to think for a bit.

ENGINEER

It would be a nice change. But I'll need 13,000 denar's up front and some time to set a few affairs in order.

PORZIANO

And I suppose you'll also want to tell me your life story.

ENGINEER

Well, yes, now that you mention it.

PORZIANO

Well that's too bad for you. Monologuing is my thing, and I don't appreciate everyone I talk to taking that from me.

ENGINEER

Well then you'll have to find yourself another engineer.

PORZIANO

That's the dealbreaker? Not having to risk your life by joining in an unprovoked assault on some random noble's castle?

ENGINEER

That's right.

BARMAID returns with PORZIANO's bread and ale. PORZIANO takes a bite of the bread and a sip of ale.

PORZIANO

Well, I suppose you can talk while I eat and drink.

ENGINEER

I came to Calradia three years back. And I've been sitting in this tavern ever since.

There is a pause as PORZIANO waits for more.

PORZIANO

That's it?

ENGINEER

Yes.

PORZIANO

I'll admit, I was expecting you to be much longer winded.

ENGINEER

Well there's also all of the people I owe money, which is why I need payment in advance and time to settle affairs. It all started one day when I was-

PORZIANO

I don't care. You still haven't said whether you will take the contract and join my band.

ENGINEER

Contract? What contract?

PORZIANO

This contract.

PORZIANO pulls out a contract and hands it to ENGINEER. ENGINEER begins to look over it.

PORZIANO (CONT'D)

Don't bother reading it. It's just the usual.

ENGINEER

That may be true for all I know, if it's usual to specify how many pairs of shoes I can bring. It also says I'm not allowed to eat any cheese.

PORZIANO

It's mine.

ENGINEER

And in the event of capture I'm required to swallow a poison pill.

PORZIANO

Can't risk the enemy learning of my plans.

ENGINEER

And I'm not allowed to wear black.

PORZIANO

I don't like my men looking like me.

ENGINEER

And of course there will be absolutely no possession of feathers.

PORZIANO

I think that one's pretty self explanatory.

ENGINEER

Well, I've got nothing better to do.

ENGINEER signs the contract.

PORZIANO

Excellent. Report to my camp noon tomorrow.

PORZIANO gets up.

ENGINEER

Wait, I don't know where your camp is.

PORZIANO

It's the one just outside the city. With about a hundred fully armed soldiers. You can't miss it. Actually I'm surprised no one ever complains about having an army camped outside their city. Well, so much the better for me.

ENGINEER

Wait, don't forget my pay up front.

PORZIANO

Right, here.

PORZIANO tosses a pouch of money to ENGINEER and then leaves. ENGINEER opens the pouch to inspect the money. BARMAID walks up.

BARMAID

That man said you were going to pay for the bread and ale.

ENGINEER

Of course he did.