

YE OLDE LAW
"'Tis the Old Age Tale"

Written by

Connor Snow

NOTE: All characters should be cast
(& imagined) ten years older than stated.

(512) 608-8420
cjsnow128@gmail.com

NILES NEWSMAN (25), a man with slicked back hair and a slightly worn button coat, faces away from the audience behind a large news desk. There's a painted backdrop, CARRIER PIGEON holding a parchment with the word "YE OLDE NEWS". Niles creaks his shoddy wooden swivel chair to face front.

NILES NEWSMAN

Good Morrow Latrinia! I'm Niles
Newsman, and this morning, we have
a very special guest joining us.
But first, let's check in on the
stock market.

BOB EXECUTIONER (29) stands in front of a makeshift gallows.
Bob is HUGE, making the gallows look even more ridiculous.

BOB EXECUTIONER

All good 'ere sire. Lotso misshapen
necks! Business is thanks to the
justice brought by that good law
master Jacqueline Gaius.

NILES NEWSMAN

Thanks Bob Executioner. Now a brief
economic outlook.

BARRY BOGMASTER (26) stands in front a painted bog.

BARRY BOGMASTER

Exports of Latrinia's toxic bog gas
are up! But life expectancy is
down. The Queen confirmethed that
these stats do not correlate.

NILES NEWSMAN

Thank you Barry Bogmaster. Next,
our special guest! As the royal
advocate, Jacqueline Gaius needs no
introduction. She has defended the
queen in many court cases, but
today she celebrates a different
victory: living to 30 years old.
Please welcome, Jacqueline Gaius.

JACQUELINE GAIUS (30) rolls in on another shoddy swivel chair
and plants next to Niles. She dresses in fine Tudor garb, her
hair short, slicked back - presenting masculine as she can.

JACQUELINE GAIUS

(slightly confused)
Good Morrow...

NILES NEWSMAN
Good Morrow! Now Jacqueline, can I -

JACQUELINE GAIUS
Please refer to me using my title.
Advocate Gaius.

NILES NEWSMAN
Advocate Gaius, is it true that
your back hurts?

JACQUELINE GAIUS
What?

NILES NEWSMAN
'Tis said that old people have weak
backs. How weak is your back today?

JACQUELINE GAIUS
My back is perfectly young.

NILES NEWSMAN
At your old age? That's amazing.

JACQUELINE GAIUS
Niles. I'm thirty. My age is moot.
Don't you want to ask about my job?

NILES NEWSMAN
Yes. How many fingers am I holding?

Niles holds up three fingers.

JACQUELINE GAIUS
Three?

NILES NEWSMAN
Wow! Your brain is still in peak
condition! I forgot to ask, can you
hear me?

JACQUELINE GAIUS
Okay, I'm done with this game.

The camera flips. QUEEN MAEVIS (39) of Latrinia sits upon a
glamorous throne before an ornate stain glass window. PRINCE
CASSIAN (19) sits next to her on a smaller throne.

PRINCE CASSIAN
Hold thy actions!

The entire news set drops to the ground - including the desk -
which reveals everything to be two-dimensional.

PRINCE CASSIAN (CONT'D)
Were thou not feeling glamoured
Gaius? I thought thy were radiant.

JACQUELINE GAIUS
Those questions were insulting.

PRINCE CASSIAN
They highlighted how stupendously
old thou are today. To witness
thirty years is astounding.

JACQUELINE GAIUS
My prince, thirty is nothing. If I
was working in the bogs, then
thirty would be an achievement.

QUEEN MAEVIS
Oh please Gaius, let us not get
political on thoust special day.
Those bog workers have shorter life
spans due to their smaller brains,
not the chemical fumes from the
bogs. Save thy politics for your
work, Gaius. Ah! Speaking of...

Queen Maevis pulls out a paper from her side.

QUEEN MAEVIS (CONT'D)
There has been a perplexion at my
Retirement Community. I need thine
eye for justice to survey.

JACQUELINE GAIUS
On my special day?

QUEEN MAEVIS
Yes! I think it's calming knowing
what you're working so hard for:
retirement. I also have one more
thing for you Gaius. My gift!

Queen Maevis snaps. A servant brings out a walking cane, it
is ugly, bejeweled, and has flames with the words "This Girl
is Olde Skool".

QUEEN MAEVIS (CONT'D)
This was my first walking stick,
Gauis. I want you to have it now.
Welcome to your Golden Years!

END OF COLD OPEN

2 **MONTAGE**

2

A rooster stands on a cobblestone wall before a sunrise. A hazy wind of bog fumes blows in. The rooster coughs.

A PEASANT (27) sleeps in a hut. A bog wind rolls in the window. The PEASANT wakes up and coughs furiously.

A BOY (10) delivers the morning parchments while riding a pony. Bogs winds blow in. They cough and tip over.

3 **INT. UNDERSTAIRS CLOSET - MORNING**

3

ELIS DIRTFURBRAINS (19) lies asleep in a cot inside a cramped and cluttered room. No inch of the floor is shown. The walls are made of cobblestones with one hole where a cobblestone should be acting as a makeshift window.

The hair of Elis is wavy and a little frizzy, and dons a burlap sack with holes cutout for their hands and head. They have a scrawny build that is common of peasants for the time.

A cacophony of coughs comes through the hole in the wall. Elis wakes up.

Elis props up a mirror and changes clothes from their sack into brown patchwork overalls. From a small faucet in the corner, they fill a cup with brown water. Elis swishes the water in their mouth and spits it back into the cup.

Elis holds up a wooden name plate to their chest that says "Thy Name Be... ELIS". They close their eyes. Elis places a nail towards the nameplate & their chest.

ELIS

What we do for our jobs.

Elis holds up a hammer.

4 **EXT. UNDERSTAIRS CLOSET - MORNING**

4

Elis shuts the shoddy wooden door to their closet home. They cut their thumb on jutting piece of wood.

ELIS

Ow.

They search through all their pockets.

ELIS (CONT'D)

Rats. Oh well.

5

EXT. DIRT FIELD FULL OF HOLES - MORNING

5

Jacqueline Gaius holds the "Olde Skool" cane as she looks over a large dusty dirt field as far as the eye can see. The landscape is almost apocalyptic, with the ground littered with a bunch of holes of uneven sizes. A slight moaning can be heard.

Gaius looks down at a scrap of parchment it read "ask about the hole". Gaius looks over and sees a wooden sign, on it painted "Queen Maevis Retirement Holes".

Elis comes from behind Gaius with a smile on their face.

ELIS

Hi there! I'm Elis. Are you looking to fill that hole in your life for the rest of your life?

JACQUELINE GAIUS

Oh, no. I'm not looking to retire yet! I'm not old.

ELIS

What's this stylish cane for?

JACQUELINE GAIUS

Oh, please. It's a gift. I can't give it away as that would technically be treason.

ELIS

Oh! Ye must be the representative for the Queen. Follow me mam!

Elis leads Gaius through the holes. Inside each hole, there are older people. The old people do things like bumping into the walls, wailing, and some have their mouths agape towards the sky.

ELIS (CONT'D)

I know... it almost makes you full of jealousy don't it?

Elis checks their own note card. It reads "REMINDER: LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION".

ELIS (CONT'D)

Right. Each hole is dug from locally-sourced mud. That's our guarantee.

JACQUELINE GAIUS

Why is this hole bigger the rest?

Gaius points to a larger hole on the side of the path.

ELIS

I see you've noticed a premium hole. One you can truly call a retirement home. Although all our holes are homes. The only thing missing to make them a home, is you!

JACQUELINE GAIUS

Do any holes come with furniture?

ELIS

Yes! They all come fully furnished.

JACQUELINE GAIUS

Where's the furniture for this hole?

ELIS

Follow me.

Elis leads Gaius to the other side of the hole. We can now see a photorealistic sky is painted on one of the walls.

ELIS (CONT'D)

(whispering)

I painted that.

JACQUELINE GAIUS

Huh. It's quite convincing.

ELIS

This ends our tour. Any other questions?

JACQUELINE GAIUS

Well -

ELIS

Ooo! I have a question for you, to see if you were paying attention.

Elis pulls out a photorealistic drawing of THEIR KEYS.

ELIS (CONT'D)

Did you happen to spot this on the tour? It's a key ring full of keys, it says "Elis" on the tag there.

JACQUELINE GAIUS
No. Um, I did have a question.
Where's the hole I'm supposed to be
investigating?

ELIS
Right! It be this one over here.

Elis leads Gaius to another patch of holes. One hole looks
incredibly deeper than the rest.

JACQUELINE GAIUS
Wow. It's this deep one right here?

ELIS
Yes. This be the hole created for
the Queen's Jester a few days ago!

JACQUELINE GAIUS
... and I guess the problem is that
it's too deep? Could hurt someone?

ELIS
Yes. That be the complaint we got
mailed with.

JACQUELINE GAIUS
Well. Now I need to speak to...

Gaius checks their parchment again.

JACQUELINE GAIUS (CONT'D)
... the Master of Holes?

ELIS
That's me boss. He got summoned to
the castle earlier this morning.

JACQUELINE GAIUS
Great. No one tells me anything.

ELIS
Well, I'm walking to the castle
anyways for me next profession. I
could help you get back. I love
helping the old. It's why I applied
for this job!

JACQUELINE GAIUS
Again, I'm not old. See.

Gaius drops the cane.

JACQUELINE GAIUS (CONT'D)
 I don't need this. But I'm going to
 pick it up again because I am
 afraid the rejection of the gift
 could be seen as treason.

ELIS
 Here let me get that for you.

Elis picks up the cane.

ELIS (CONT'D)
 Are you sure you don't need
 help? Cause I could help you
 and maybe you could help me
 find these keys.

JACQUELINE GAIUS
 I promise I don't need help.
 I'm really young. In fact,
 all of this retiring is far
 ways away from me.

A bog wind sweeps in. Both cough.

6

INT. QUEEN'S COURT - DAY

6

Queen Maevis & Prince Cassian sit in their respect thrones.
 The MASTER OF HOLES, a old man with an incredibly long beard
 and brown overalls covered in dirt, holds a shovel.

Gaius enters with Elis, holding the cane.

JACQUELINE GAIUS
 Thank you! Thank you.

PRINCE CASSIAN
 Oh! Gaius finally! We have the old
 miscreant here before us.

MASTER OF HOLES
 (coughs)
 Yes.

QUEEN MAEVIS
 Pray tell me, what did you think my
 holes?

JACQUELINE GAIUS
 Quite cramped.

QUEEN MAEVIS
 Honest as ever. But I bet you saw
 the larger ones too? With the view?

JACQUELINE GAIUS
 Yes.

QUEEN MAEVIS

Good. Good. It's good to know what you're working towards. Retirement.

JACQUELINE GAIUS

So, you need me to prosecute this hole master for being -

MASTER OF HOLES

Master of Holes.

JACQUELINE GAIUS

Yes, Master of Holes for making a hole too deep.

QUEEN MAEVIS

Yes, the Master of Holes was charged to prepareth a retirement hole for my favorite, Jared the Jester, who retired last week.

JACQUELINE GAIUS

I remember. Joyous party.

QUEEN MAEVIS

But the Master of Holes, was so old he misread our specifications.

PRINCE CASSIAN

As old people are known do, due to thy old eyesight.

QUEEN MAEVIS

Thank you, my son. So, the Master of Holes crime is being old. So if you could work thy justice and tell him that so we can move on.

PRINCE CASSIAN

Yes, we figured you might be able to talk to him as you are old as of today, and would be able to speak his language.

Gaius approaches the Master of Holes, who is much smaller in stature compared to her.

JACQUELINE GAIUS

Master of Holes, the Queen -

MASTER OF HOLES

Oh... you're so young.

Gaius looks around, then back to the Master of Holes.

JACQUELINE GAIUS

Me...?

MASTER OF HOLES

Make sure you're doing things that you are proud of in this life. For me, it's making and managing holes. People don't appreciate holes, but I've been proud of every single one. I apologize for messing up the last hole so gravely, but I know I must be punished. Just make sure someone cares for those holes like I did. Not that scrappy salesman Elis though, he cares too much.

Gaius stands in shock. They look at the Master of Holes, then the royalty, then the Master of Holes again.

PRINCE CASSIAN

Doth he understandeth?

JACQUELINE GAIUS

He does, but I don't.

Prince Cassian gasps.

QUEEN MAEVIS

What doth you mean Gaius? He's old. Can't you prosecute him for that?

JACQUELINE GAIUS

I can. But I won't. I'm going to be his advocate. Pro-bono.

QUEEN MAEVIS

Really now?

JACQUELINE GAIUS

Yes. I am still young, and have things to be proud of. This will be the first. One day I will be old, and hope someone will defend me from attacks like yours. Today, I am that defender. Good day.

Gaius leaves.

PRINCE CASSIAN

True drama! I'm so thrilled mother!

7

INT. RECORD'S ROOM - CLERK DESK - DAY

7

Gaius walks up to a desk covered with paper and files. The room is vaguely reminiscent of an evidence locker. There is a bell on the desk that Gaius rings.

JACQUELINE GAIUS

Hello?

Gaius rings the bells again, and Elis pops up.

ELIS

Hello! Welcome to the Castle
Records - it's you again!

JACQUELINE GAIUS

Yes, what are you doing here now?

ELIS

Well, mam -

JACQUELINE GAIUS

Please don't call me that. I am
young. Call me Advocate Gaius.

ELIS

Well Gaius good to see you again.
Have you happened to stumble upon -

JACQUELINE GAIUS

No, I have not seen them. Is this
where all the commoner advocates
for hire go to get their junk?

ELIS

You mean the lawyers?

JACQUELINE GAIUS

Yes, whatever those slums are
calling themselves now-a-days.

ELIS

Why, yes. We accept shady bribes
and we'll give you access to the
royal parchments.

JACQUELINE GAIUS

Well, see I'm defending a peasant
in a case, so it is out of the
kindness of my heart I am doing
this. So can you cut me a deal?

ELIS

I don't think so. Says so in me
rule book I can't be giving stuff
out without bribes.

JACQUELINE GAIUS

Do you have a manager?

ELIS

Yes, he's busy as of current.

JACQUELINE GAIUS

Just grab him, I'm sure I'll
understand. Working class to
working class here.

ELIS

Well...

JACQUELINE GAIUS

Just go grab him. Ta-ta.

Elis leaves the desk.

8

INT. RECORD'S ROOM - OFFICE - DAY

8

Elis knocks on the office door before entering. There's a
desk and two chairs. On the other side of the desk sits the
CASTLE HISTORIAN (20) with his feet propped up wearing a
commoner garb painted with the word "KNOWLEDGE".

CASTLE HISTORIAN

Hey come in.

Elis enters.

ELIS

Hello. An advocate of the queen
would like to speak to you -

CASTLE HISTORIAN

With me? About what?

ELIS

She wants access to files...
without paying the bribe.

CASTLE HISTORIAN

Yeah... we can't do that.

ELIS

Can you come out and tell her that?

CASTLE HISTORIAN
See I would, but you've been here
for a month now...

ELIS
Right...

CASTLE HISTORIAN
... and as the Castle Historian I
have some remembering about history
to do.

ELIS
I only need one moment...

CASTLE HISTORIAN
Yeah... I hear you. But do know you
how many wars I can remember in a
moment. Good amount. So.

9

INT. RECORD'S ROOM - CLERK DESK - DAY

9

Elis re-enters with their back in a hunch.

ELIS
Apologies advocate, but you'll have
to pay the bribe.

JACQUELINE GAIUS
Can I talk to him?

ELIS
Sorry, he's busy remembering.

JACQUELINE GAIUS
I knew coming here was not going to
be of service.

ELIS
Do not get stress about it, I read
it can kill you.

JACQUELINE GAIUS
You're literate.

ELIS
Learning to be as part of the job.

JACQUELINE GAIUS
Really? Where'd you read that?

ELIS

In a court case back here, said stress killed a man. A doctor testified and said it has been known to age people faster.

JACQUELINE GAIUS

Really? Stress ages you?

ELIS

So was the verdict of the case.

JACQUELINE GAIUS

Who was the prosecutor?

ELIS

Someone named James Gaius.

JACQUELINE GAIUS

Oh no.

10

INT. QUEEN'S COURT - EVENING

10

COSETTE (20) sits against a blank backdrop. In front of her is a nameplate that reads "COSETTE (20)".

COSETTE

... and so I told his bum that I'll milk the cow once he starts putting in more effort to make more butter. Cause he's the town buttermilk.

"Ooos" are heard from the audience and the Prince. The Queen and Prince watch from their thrones.

QUEEN MAEVIS

Why must you delve yourself in commoner squabbles my dear.

PRINCE CASSIAN

This is art of the modern age. You have to buy into the drama.

Gaius enters holding the cane and "ahems" from the side.

QUEEN MAEVIS

Gaius! Look who's crawled back.

JACQUELINE GAIUS

My lord, is now a good time to discuss our shared case.

QUEEN MAEVIS
Beautiful time. My son, please
escort all this trash out of here.

COSETTE
Oh, I am not trash!

QUEEN MAEVIS
But you are because of your taste
in men.

Gasps from the audience.

PRINCE CASSIAN
Halt ye actions! We will pick this
up tomorrow night. Thank you all.

A gaggle of HUTWIVES including Cosette leave the foyer.

QUEEN MAEVIS
Pray, what would thoust like to
discuss Gaius?

JACQUELINE GAIUS
Well I've been doing a lot of
evidence work, and it's not looking
great, for you.

QUEEN MAEVIS
Doesn't matter. I'm the Queen. I'm
immune.

JACQUELINE GAIUS
Of course, but I'd hate to see you
lose or cause any extra stress. Did
you know that stress ages you?

PRINCE CASSIAN
Really?

JACQUELINE GAIUS
Yes. So in order to save us all
stress. I propose a solution.

QUEEN MAEVIS
Which is?

JACQUELINE GAIUS
Both parties... should shake hands.
Master of Holes!

Master of Holes enters incredibly slow.

JACQUELINE GAIUS (CONT'D)
He has already agreed to a
handshake, if we could have Jared
the Jester complete the handshake.

QUEEN MAEVIS
Oh. Yes. Why sure.

JACQUELINE GAIUS
Really?

QUEEN MAEVIS
Yes, I'll have my servants bring my
dear Jester out here.

The Queen rings a bell.

QUEEN MAEVIS (CONT'D)
Can we please bring out my beloved
Jared for Gaius so our parties can
'shake hands'?

Servants wheel out a wooden table with a tarp covering
SOMETHING on top.

JACQUELINE GAIUS
Oh, is this a dinner?

QUEEN MAEVIS
Go ahead, dig in.

Gaius lifts the tarp and screams.

JACQUELINE GAIUS
Now that is sick joke. I come here
asking for peace. And you show me
this disgusting statuesque of Jared
with both his legs crushed as if
from a long fall. And - one moment.

Gaius lifts the tarp again.

JACQUELINE GAIUS (CONT'D)
For a moment I thought that was
actually his body, but he wasn't
that short in my memory.

Gaius lifts the tarp again.

JACQUELINE GAIUS (CONT'D)
The stench is terrible.

QUEEN MAEVIS
Well. It's real rotting flesh.

Gaius lift the tarp one more time.

FLASHBACKS: Gaius saying the hole is so deep it could 'kill someone', Master of Holes saying he 'messed up so gravely', then a new flashback...

INT. CASTLE HALLWAY - DAY

Gaius confers with the Master of Holes in the hallway

JACQUELINE GAIUS
You have nothing to be worried
about, it's not you killed someone.

MASTER OF HOLES
Oh but I did dear advocate.

JACQUELINE GAIUS
No, you only killed a spirit of a
happy customer.

MASTER OF HOLES
The Prince told me that Jester fell
in the hole and died.

JACQUELINE GAIUS
Oh he's a dramatic! They're just
trying to scare a poor old man.

INT. QUEEN'S COURT - EVENING

Gaius stares underneath the tarp.

JACQUELINE GAIUS
Oh no.

END OF ACT ONE