

THE QUEEN'S DOGS

Written by

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ACT 1, SCENE 1

FADE IN:

EXT. LOMBARD STREET, LONDON - NIGHT

SUPER: London, 1887

BENNETT LIVINGSTON, 30, tall, muscular, and imposing, walks briskly on the cobblestone street. He keeps a cap covered low over his eyes and the collar of his coat up around his neck.

The street is mostly empty, except for a few drunken revelers and prostitutes. A constable keeps a watchful eye on the group, and Bennett slips by unnoticed.

He turns the corner to Martin and Co. Bank and heads down a narrow alley behind the building.

Behind the bank, Bennett stops and looks around before kneeling in front of a back door. He inspects the iron door and pays attention to the lock.

From an interior coat pocket, he pulls out a small, intricately carved box. He twists the top off like a flask and chooses a long, spindly pick.

BENNETT

Alright Lucy, don't let me down.

Bennett kisses the pick and attempts to break the lock. After a few tries, the lock CLICKS, and he tries the door knob.

JASPER

Evening, Gov. Hope we're not interrupting anything.

Bennett stands and steps away from the door. Three figures step out from the shadows.

JASPER FLOCKHART, 26, a tall, thin man with sandy blonde hair, walks with a pirate's cocky swagger, and his long, brown coat kicks out behind him.

JASPER (CONT'D)

How long did it take him?

ZEKE WOOD, 29, a stocky man with flashes of gray at his brown temples, looks down to a large silvery stopwatch in his hand.

ZEKE

Less than a minute.

Jasper lets out a low whistle, shakes his head, and steps closer towards Bennett.

JASPER

Lordy, he is good.

MERCY SMITH, 23, a petite woman with long brown hair braided down her back, smirks.

MERCY

Told you so.

JASPER

Bennett Livingston, right--

Bennett sprints away down the alley. He looks over his shoulder, and Jasper, Zeke, and Mercy follow.

From another coat pocket, Bennett pulls out a billy club and aims it upwards. He pushes a switch at the club's base, and a claw explodes and zips upwards, pulling Bennett with it.

JASPER (CONT'D)

Aww, come on!

Bennett pulls himself onto the rooftop and looks down at three below.

JASPER (CONT'D)

I hate when they run.

MERCY

Come on, captain. Where's your sense of adventure?

Zeke rolls his eyes. He takes a running start and leaps onto the brick wall, grasping at uneven bricks in the building.

ZEKE

Are you two coming or not?

Jasper and Mercy follow Zeke and climb their way up the building. Bennett continues to run and leap across rooftops, but Jasper, Zeke, and Mercy are faster.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

(to Mercy)

Do you have a clear shot?

Mercy pushes up the sleeve of her coat; a leather cuff latched to her arm reveals several vials of neon green liquid.

She pulls out a pistol from a hip holster and loads a vial into the chamber like a bullet. Raising the gun, she squints an eye to line up the shot.

MERCY

I need to get closer.

JASPER

He's going to get away! Take the shot, Merc!

Mercy pulls the trigger, and the vial flies out of the pistol. In the air, the vial sprouts tiny claws that latches itself onto Bennett's shoulder.

JASPER (CONT'D)

Yes!

Bennett, still running, reaches behind and rips the vial off.

JASPER (CONT'D)

Ugh! Who is this guy? Goliath?

Jasper flicks out his coat and pulls a small grenade from the holster around his waist. Zeke eyes Jasper's grenade.

ZEKE

Jasper, don't! Mercy can still take him down.

Bennett slows down as he prepares to leap over to another rooftop. Mercy loads another vial into her pistol and lines up the shot.

MERCY

I can get him.

Bennett and Mercy jump. Mercy fires her pistol in midair, hitting Bennett in the back. At the same time, Jasper pulls the grenade pin with his teeth and throws it.

The grenade explodes over the edge of the rooftop. Bennett falls into the hole made by the grenade. The explosion blasts Mercy away from the building.

JASPER AND ZEKE

(simultaneously)

No! Mercy!

Mercy screams as she falls. Jasper stands frozen as he watches. Zeke yells out to Jasper.

ZEKE

You're the captain. Do something!

Zeke eyes a laundry line connecting the two buildings together. He cuts the line and jumps off the rooftop. The line cuts into his palms as he drops.

Zeke catches Mercy, and they both hit the cobblestones below. They lay motionless on the ground. Jasper calls out.

JASPER

Zeke! Mercy! You alright?

Zeke opens his eyes. He shakes Mercy's shoulder.

ZEKE

Come on, wake up Merc.

Slowly, Mercy opens her eyes.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

You alright, love?

Visibly shaken, Mercy nods. Zeke looks up to Jasper on the rooftop.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

We're good. You take care of Goliath.

Jasper leaps to the other rooftop and drops down into the hole made by the grenade. Bennett, unconscious, lies on his stomach among the rubble.

Jasper surveys the damage and shakes his head.

JASPER

Damn it.

Back on the street, Mercy sits up.

MERCY

We've got to go before Scotland Yard gets here...

Mercy tries to stand but falters. Zeke holds her up.

ZEKE

Hold on, love. This will help.

From his coat, Zeke pulls out a vial. He uncorks it and holds the vial up to Mercy's nose. She coughs and shakes her head. Zeke helps Mercy up to her feet.

Mercy looks up at the damaged building.

MERCY

Gladstone is not going to like this
one bit.

Zeke pulls Mercy's arm over his shoulder and helps her walk. They disappear into the shadow as the sound of constable whistles grows louder.

FADE OUT.