

The Drawbridge

A very jealous baron is leaving his castle and his pretty wife to go visit the countryside. The baron warns his pretty wife “Don’t leave the castle while I’m gone or I’ll punish you severely when I return.” Hours pass and the baroness becomes very lonely. Despite her husband’s warning, she decides to visit her lover in the countryside nearby. The castle is on an island in the middle of a fast flowing river. A drawbridge links the island to the mainland at the narrowest point in the river.

“Surely my husband will not return before dawn,” she thought and told the servants to lower the drawbridge and leave it down until she returned.

After spending several pleasant hours with her lover, the baroness returned to the drawbridge only to find a gateman blocking it with a long, cruel knife. “Do not attempt to cross the bridge baroness, or I will kill you. The baron ordered me to do so.” Fearing for her life, the baroness returned to her lover and asked for his help, but he says, “Our relationship is only a romantic one, I will not help.” The baroness then sought out a boatman on the river and explained her plight to him and asked him to take her across the river on the boat. The boatman said “I’ll do it but only if you can pay my fee of 5 marks.”

“But I have no money with me,” the baroness protested. “That’s too bad, no money, no ride,” the boatman said flatly.

Her fear growing, the baroness ran crying to the home of a friend. After explaining her desperate situation, she tried to beg for enough money to pay the boatman’s fee. The friend says, “If you had not disobeyed your husband, this wouldn’t have happened. I will give you no money.” Dawn was coming and she had no one else to run to. The baroness returned to the bridge in desperation, attempted to cross to the castle and was slain by the gateman.

Rank the characters from top (most responsible) to bottom (least responsible)

- Baron*
- Baroness*
- Boatman*
- Gateman*
- Friend*
- Lover*

| My ranking | Pair ranking | Group ranking |
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