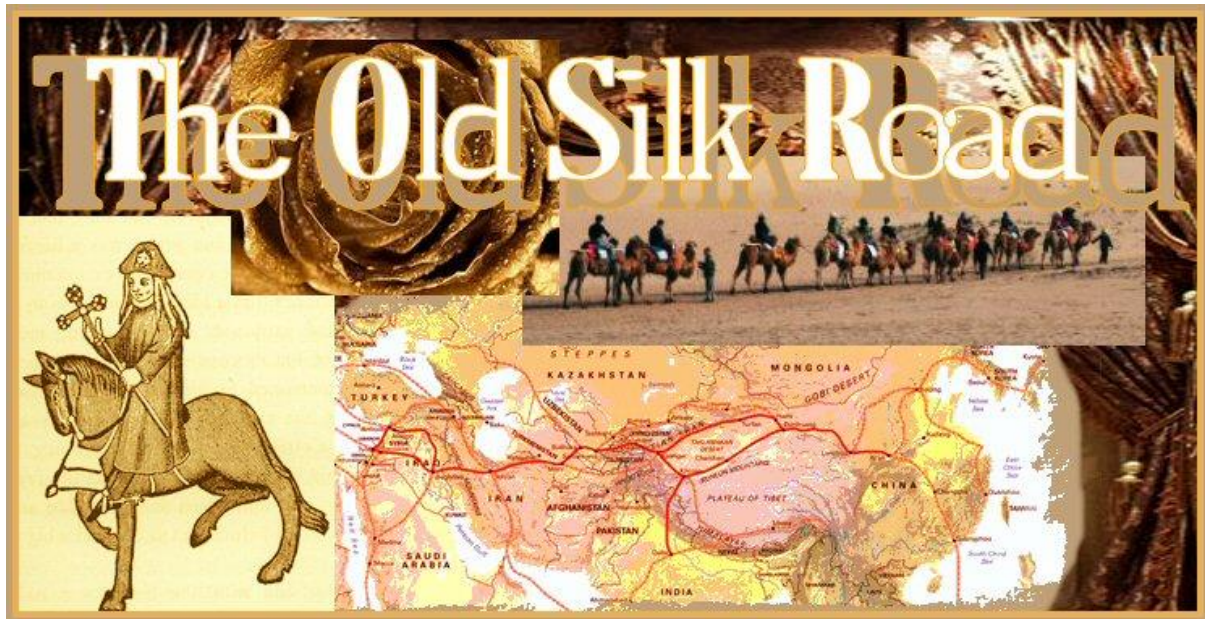




Dramatis Personae 1969

Members of the "M'Coure" families

Dramatis Personae 1969		
Members of the "M'Coure" families		
PENDLEBURY FAMILY	Gordon	Born 1919, and thus 50 years of age in 1969
	Holly	Born 1922, and thus 47 years old in 1969.
	George	Born 1952 and thus 17 in 1969. George appears in film #3. George more closely resembles Gordon.
	William	Born 1954 and thus 15 in 1969. William is a strong presence in all the following films, starring in film #3. His daughters Simone and Beth star in film #6. William more closely resembles Holly.

© April 2012 Property of QUEENSLAND TRUCKIE'S MATE

THIS DOCUMENT IS SOLELY OWNED BY QUEENSLAND TRUCKIE'S MATE and is intended solely for use as an entertainment. QUEENSLAND TRUCKIE'S MATE retains exclusive and inalienable rights to this document, which may not be reproduced in any way without the express authorisation and permission of QUEENSLAND TRUCKIE'S MATE. Any disclosure, reproduction, copying, distribution, or other dissemination or use of this document or of the intellectual property contained in this document is strictly prohibited without the express authorisation and permission of QUEENSLAND TRUCKIE'S MATE. (www.qld-tm.net.au)

ALLENDALÉ FAMILY	Roger	Born 1914, so is 55 in 1969. The truth of Roger's villainy comes out in film #3.
	Judith	Roger's wife.
	Toby	Born 1940, thus 29 in 1969. Theatrical type, acting in many movies and TV advertisements. Is a major player in film #3 and appears in film #4.
	Raine Veronica	Born 1943, thus 26 in 1969. Her society wedding provides the backbone to this script.
	Laurence	Born 1946, thus 23 in 1969. Graduate of Cambridge. Is a major player in film #3 and appears in film #4.
	Margaret	Born 1917, thus 52 in 1969. Has become a sad old hippy, married to Australian cricket legend Albert Pitch.
BUXTON FAMILY	Malcolm	Professor of Archaeology and specialist in Anthropology and Ancient Languages. Proves to have been an inspiration to many of the characters in film #4.
	Helene (nee Rylance)	Cousin of Holly, Margaret and Roger.
	Fiona (also plays Sophie)	Born in 1944, so 25 in 1969. Daughter of Malcolm and Helene. Scholar at Oxford, writing a Masters thesis. She will later on marry Jack Bradley, and have a son called Rylance aka "Trader" who will appear in films #3 and #5, but be the star of film #4.

		Fiona has a good part in film #5.
	Tess (also plays Maglia)	Born in 1946, so 23 in 1969. Studies Music, at the Conservatory, playing the viola. Becomes a rank-and-file violist in the London Symphony Orchestra. Tess will marry Laurence Allendale, and have a daughter called Edwina: Edwina appears in film #3 but stars in film #4.

Dramatis Personae 1969 : Others

Sir Lentock Broughborough	This character is very reminiscent of Sir Humphrey Appleby (from "Yes Minister"). His position is very senior and very secret.
Desmond Grantley	The assistant to Sir Lentock reminds us of Bernard Woolley (from "Yes Minister").
Angus Hartnell	Director of the latest production at the Alexandra Theatre.
Jack Bradley	Jack is an Australian exponent of "derring-do" who is in his early 30s. It is revealed in film #4 that Enid Finchett (of film #1) was his real mother. In film #5 it is revealed that his biological father was Irish archaeologist Daniel Lubeth (heir to Lord Gortin of Carrick Glengortin.)

Maria Mayhew-Spinks	Toby's on-again-off-again girlfriend. She will marry Toby and they will have three sons, all of whom appear in film #3 and film #4. Toby's grandson Charles will star in film #5. At the end of this film (film #2) we discover that Maria is the daughter of Sir Lentock and that "Mayhew-Spinks" is a stage name.
Albert Pitch	Born 1910, so 59 years old in 1969. Was an Australian Native player in the 1932 Australian Test side (batsman).
Lord Christopher Michael Simon Anstey	Marrying Raine Allendale
The Archbishop of Canterbury, David Lighthorse	
Anguella, Portuguese step-daughter of Frank	Attractive, ruthless Argentinean.
Francis Cruikshank	noted playwright

Dramatis Personae who inhabit the Old Silk Road

On the Old Silk Road we find Gandore and his wife Eleesha along with a 17-year-old Marco Polo and sisters Maglia and Sophie.

Other players are the Durawarriors of Gandore's daughter, Trahilai.



FULL SYNOPSIS

PROLOGUE -- NARRATIVE

This Prologue edges us into the matter of this film:

- The black tent of the mystic Gandore at the end of the 13th century, Old Silk Road
- A panoply of those objects and drugs employed by alchemists
- Throughout the film, an encapsulated version of "The Pardoner's Tale" from Chaucer's Canterbury Tales will appear (in parts) as a narrative which acts as a glue to bind together the subsequent action.
- Frank Cruikshank's magnum opus: "Cupiditas".

© April 2012 Property of QUEENSLAND TRUCKIE'S MATE

THIS DOCUMENT IS SOLELY OWNED BY QUEENSLAND TRUCKIE'S MATE and is intended solely for use as an entertainment. QUEENSLAND TRUCKIE'S MATE retains exclusive and inalienable rights to this document, which may not be reproduced in any way without the express authorisation and permission of QUEENSLAND TRUCKIE'S MATE. Any disclosure, reproduction, copying, distribution, or other dissemination or use of this document or of the intellectual property contained in this document is strictly prohibited without the express authorisation and permission of QUEENSLAND TRUCKIE'S MATE. (www.qld-tm.net.au)

ACT I

~~~~~

The two British gentlemen in this scene (an office) are reminiscent of two of the principals of the TV series "Yes, Minister". Sir Lentock Broughborough represents Sir Humphrey Appleby, whereas his aide (Desmond Grantley) reminds us of the Bernard Woolley character.

Desmond is nonplussed as a large visitor hovers over him.

The visitor is Jack Bradley (however the film audience is unaware of that), and Sir Lentock advises Desmond to forget that he has ever seen him. The clue to the identity is the mention of 1960's pop group Wayne Fontana and the Mindbenders.

~~~~~

In the Queen Alexandra Theatrette, Maria and Toby fight whilst in the audience for a rehearsal of a dreadful play: the latest from Frank Cruickshank, whose Chaucer drama goes unperformed.

~~~~~

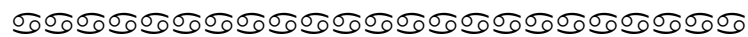
Maria has had enough of Toby and is leaving him for another man.

~~~~~

Laurence can no longer stand it at home, and so visits his Pendlebury's. Holly has always had a very soft spot for Laurence, as he was the youngest of her brother's children and always last at everything. Gordon, George and William work on an upturned boat. Laurence joins them, finding the work soothing. Laurence joins the family in an alfresco lunch, where he blurts out that the

preparations for his sister's big society wedding are unbearable and that Maria and Toby have split (which means that Toby is at home, creating more rancour with his caustic comments). Further, Roger is involved in some dodgy financial dealings and cannot resist bragging about his part in the goings-on. *[In Film #3, these dealings will become a major focal point.]*

Then Laurence remembers an anonymous letter sent to him at college. This letter reveals that the long-lost Aunt Margaret has been located in South America. This news deeply interests Gordon and Holly, who invite Laurence to stay the night in William's bed (meaning that George and William will sleep in the same room.) In between sporadic fighting between the brothers, William repeats his desire to join the French Foreign Legion and be up and doing.



Gordon is in an unbridled rage, blaming George for William's absence. Things almost get physical, but George now stands up to his father. Just as they try to decide what to do, Laurence interrupts: his mother Judith has gone after Margaret (as she had long blamed herself for Margaret's disappearance). The assumption now is that William might be in the vanguard of Margaret's rescue party.

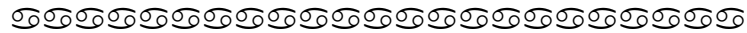


The SS Cassanove sails out of view (Southampton Dock L), complete with a ragged army of do-gooders who are bent on returning Margaret Allendale to England. Judith Allendale is one of the passengers seen to kneel in prayer for Margaret.

The Allendale/Pendlebury rescue party has become aware that Judith is a passenger on the ship now disappearing over the horizon. Toby and Laurence plan to fly to Buenos Aires as soon as possible. William's whereabouts are unknown until Toby and George discover that William is flying to the USA to the Woodstock concert.



We see the Pendlebury's and Allendale's reconnoitre on a wet London footpath.



In an up-market London bar (complete with “Ye Olde” themes), the Pendlebury and Allendale men enjoy a quiet drink. Laurence and Toby can only just make out that the anonymous letter points to “South America”.

Jack Bradley (looking like a bewigged 60's Carnaby road tragic) worms his way into the conversation, leaving his audience in a trance. Jack interprets the scrawl as standing for “South Australia”, from which state he himself hails. He forces himself on the Englishmen: shouting them drinks and over-riding Gordon's concerns that George is underage.

Unabashed, Jack lists his many strengths, all of which might be useful in the Australian outback but are lost in the environs of London.

Jack continues to spin his yarn. He has travelled from Eupottiponpon to London in order to take part in a pleasure cruise featuring Wayne Fontana and the Mindbenders. He has missed the ship, and so must get to Venice to pick up the tour. Jack reveals that he and his father produce Raleigh tomato sauce.



On a BOAC jet, Jack is totally obnoxious as he travels to Rome from London.



On the SS Pescara (Adriatic Sea), Jack distracts all and sundry by telling a very amusing joke.

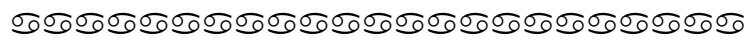
Jack gets his meaning across to an Italian steward (with the aid of hard cash): one of the crew men (that young lad over there) should be asked to accompany him, as he requires an English translator.

Jack now has a masterly grip on William's shoulder, leading him to Jack's cabin, whilst reassuring William that all is well.

Jack is suspicious. He signals to William to act normally as he scours the cabin for anything suspect.

A local explosion rips a hole in the wall of the cabin. Two men in black jump Jack. A huge fight ensues. When Jack's life is threatened, William knifes one man in the back, and then disposes the body to appear to have fallen on the knife.

Jack hastily declares that they will have to nab a dinghy and make a run for it.



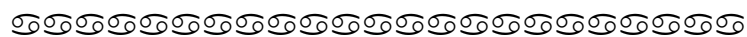
Due to the confusion and disarray on board the ship, Jack and William are able to steal a dinghy. Jack rows to Venice. We become aware of many facts.

The men who jumped Jack may have a connection with Sir Lentock.

William and George were able to afford to be Whitefriars students on account of Gordon winning the King George Medal for Journalism (in that he wrote up the M'Coure adventure). And (as we know from "M'Coure") Holly's father was murdered. William admits that this has been a great boon rather than a drawback.

William discloses that he used his brains to get from London to Rome by hitching himself to a drugged-out old woman who believed him to be a relative. From Rome, he landed a job as a deck hand on the ship from which Jack rescued him. The ultimate aim was to get to South America, jumping from one ship to another.

William admits to knowing nothing of the Old Silk Road. His only interest in History is from the military angle. Venice looms large as they near it.



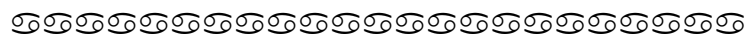
Raine calls Holly to report that her mother (Judith) has taken off for parts unknown. Holly promises to come to her aid, bringing Helene with her. As Holly packs a suitcase, William (under Jack's firm persuasion) phones his mother from Venice for a very quick call.

And then just as Holly gets to the door, Gordon phones her. Holly is able to reassure Gordon that their younger son is okay, and in Venice with Jack Bradley. Gordon is far from relieved as his opinion of Jack is very low. He is totally unsympathetic to Raine's plight as well, and vows to continue on to Venice to bring back William.



Jack and William arrive at the tiny Venetian shop (Anima Svani). Jack briefly explains to William the nature of and importance of the Old Silk Road to Europeans. When William wonders aloud why Jack is bothering to tell him this, Jack indicates that he is to take the pair of them back to the Old Silk Road by means of an esoteric concoction.

Jack mentions that a priceless treasure of uncut diamonds from King David's mines is headed for the Old Silk Road.



Helene blithely tries to put a good light on the fact that Judith has gone AWOL.

Holly and Helene (having failed to console the bride) resort to a "keep busy" approach. They promise Raine that they will adequately cover for her mother's absence, placating as best they can Raine's future mother-in-law.



In a dark and dingy corner of the Anima Svani shop, Jack and William crouch on the floor.

Jack has stowed in his wig some tiny objects with which he will brew a mystical tea.

~~~~~

To cheer-up the lachrymose bride, Helene and Holly have made afternoon tea.

Helene admits to having been burgled. But the tale is quite extraordinary: only a few of her tiny treasures are missing. To wit: a thimble, a teapot and a gold trivet.

~~~~~

Jack finishes brewing the magic tea using Helene's stolen objets d'art. He and William sip their share of the tea, and we hear two bodies fall to the floor of the shop.

[It is important that Jack leaves the small objects behind for George to find later.]

ACT II

In this grisly, scary vision, Gordon and George are tortured in a dungeon by the beautiful witch Trahilai, who demands to know the location of the diamonds (which is unknown to the two Pendlebury's).

~~~~~

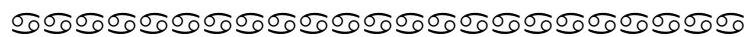
Gordon and George have slept end-to-end in a doublebed in a crummy hotel room in Venice. Experiencing the same horrible nightmare (above), they wake at the same time with a violent start. They compare verbal notes and agree that they have experienced the same ghastly vision. The hotel proprietor promises them details of where to find the despised Anima Svani shop.

~~~~~

In the rough terrain of Turkey, a caravan heads Eastwards.

Jack and William walk at a brisk pace alongside slow-moving camels, packed high with cargo.

Jack decides that they need George (a linguist). An old hag has prophesied that George is in Venice: Jack believes that by sending William back to Venice for George will facilitate his communication with Gandore (a wizard who is also an alchemist.)



Helene, Tess (the bridesmaid-to-be), Holly and Raine have visited St Paul's Cathedral in a precursor to Raine's wedding. The ladies wander about looking at the graves of the famous people buried here. Holly is amused upon finding the grave of alchemist Julian Beaversnade, whose life and works are featured on a board.



Gordon and George drift towards Jack and William's Anima Svani shop. George can smell the stench that is reminiscent of the fulsome odour experienced in the nightmare vision.



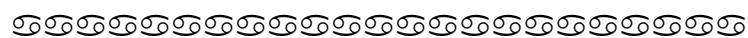
A carrier pigeon brings a coded secret message to Sir Lentock at his Royal Parthenon Suite. He reads it and then eats it as a garnish for a plate of canapés.



The British playwright Frank Cruikshank is the central focus of adoring fans (mostly female) in a cocktail bar at Heathrow airport.

He swans up to Toby and Laurence after they have swapped some witty badinage to the playwright's discredit. Frank owns a ranch outside Buenos Aires, which might prove useful to the brothers: they humour him. The ploy pays off and they win an invite to the ranch (wherein they will await the arrival of the ship carrying their mother).

Toby and Laurence are seated in the plane (First Class), which is air-borne. We learn that Toby is into TV advertising: he is suave and sophisticated to a fault.



Frank's ranch is a large, sprawling bungalow on acreage.

Toby, Frank and Laurence drift into a superb room with breathtaking views.

Frank then advises the brothers to sort out Judith's arrival times using a local shipping guide. They discover that they have until the end of the week to enjoy Frank's company before collecting their mother.

Frank explains his love of eccentricity. Laurence mentions their meeting with Jack Bradley. They share some ghastly reminiscences and anecdotes relating to Jack.

Frank also hints that he is very keen to stage Toby's escape from Westania as a 10-year-old boy.



Gordon and George snoop around the Anima Svani shop in Venice from which Jack and William launched themselves back to the Old Silk Road. They find the items left behind for them at the end of ACT I. Some of these items remind Gordon of Helene's objets d'art.

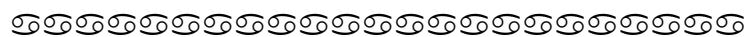
William makes a dramatic entry. There is great excitement as the Pendlebury males are reunited.

Although Gordon talks of returning to England, William is adamant that Jack needs George's language skills and that they are all to visit the Old Silk Road and meet Marco Polo.

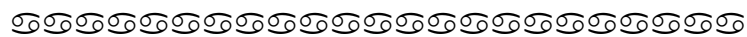
William introduces his kinsmen to the “girly” tea ceremony which will act as a portal to the Old Silk Road. George and William argue about William not yet being grown-up considering that he has started shaving under Jack’s direction. He calmly adds that he has also killed an assassin in self-defence.

His father and brother expostulate wildly; however, William steers them to the task at hand. They sip the awful tea.

It appears that nothing has happened, that they are still in Venice. William is riven with disappointment whereas George is derisory. Gordon demands to know the full story of William murdering a man. The three Pendlebury males leave the shop, to find that they are in fact in the region of Gilgit, Pakistan outside an ancient citadel. The Pendlebury's have a commanding, spectacular view of the surrounding mountains. They also see the approach of the huge caravan.



In a quaint teashop, Holly and Helene cover-off the various threads of the story. Holly expresses her concern about dear little Laurence.



The Allendale brothers canter across the farmlands which comprise the outlying reaches of the Cruikshank property. They come across a rocky area and decide to explore it, looking for the little cave that Frank had mentioned.

Rather than the promised small caverna (into which a couple might just squeeze), they find a grassed clearing, where sheep graze.

Nearby stands a pre-Columbian stonework temple, now overgrown with grass and bushes. It is large, impressive and malevolent. It was built hundreds of years before the Conquistadors even arrived in the Americas by the Calpaquez people.

The brothers enter the temple, amazed by the size of it (which they can see by Laurence's cigarette lighter). They hear voices and sneak down into a chamber to find there three Conquistadors: Barbato, Kurwingue and Sondez (along with their dogs).

In the chamber the Conquistadors stand around a large, flat-topped boulder, spilling a large quantity of uncut diamonds through their fingers. Delicious laughter accompanies this ecstatic activity.

The Allendale brothers are under the impression that this is a theatrical display, and so they go along with the situation, which now has the eager dogs and three Spaniards greet them as if old friends. Toby's conversation pleases the men.

Each man is apportioned an equal fifth of the stash of diamonds (in a leather pouch).

Laurence and Toby discuss the plastic gems they have evidently received (as part of the show) and the general nature of "adventure theatre".

Toby and Laurence realize that this scene is for real (and not staged for their benefit) when brigands break into the cave and fight with all the men and with the dogs. Several times Laurence is in mortal danger, and so takes up a nearby sabre, angrily accepting the challenge. Toby is likewise now armed with a brace of wicked daggers.

Barbato has been killed at the beginning of the onslaught.

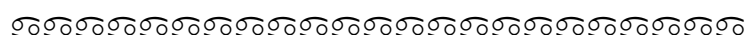
Laurence and Toby manage to each kill a brigand. These interlopers are now outnumbered and flee. Likewise, the Allendale brothers and the two remaining Spaniards leave the area on horseback.



Kurwingue and Sondez, Toby and Laurence ride at speed to a small glade where they dismount.

Kurwingue accuses Sondez of having taken Barbato's share of the diamonds. They fight with swords.

Toby and Laurence try to tend their horses. But the argument between the other two men becomes more intense and physical. Toby is reminded of Chaucer's "The Pardoner's Tale".



In a gory scene after the sword fights, Sondez dies dramatically, to be followed by Kurwingue's death. Toby retrieves three bags of uncut diamonds (one of them belonging to Barbato and filched by Sondez).

Laurence is now suffering qualms for killing a man in self-defence. Toby tries to reason with him that the law of the jungle rules when one is in danger of being taken out by the other party. Toby fights Laurence's over-ruling conscience trying to "man-up" his squeamish brother.

Toby ensures that all five pouches of diamonds are safely stowed in his saddlebag and tries to cheer Laurence by complimenting his swordplay.

Here follows part of THE PARDONER'S TALE as narrated by Gus Cassius (to be continued)

ACT III

With the benefit of hindsight, Jack must warn Gandore (who is extremely reluctant to listen) of the dangers of making gold and being murdered for it when the lure of King David's diamonds is added to the mix.

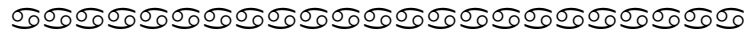
Jack's only hope is to spin a yarn about the demise of another alchemist and trust that Gandore takes the hint.

Jack's "hero" is an alchemist who tries for years to make gold. And one night, he succeeds, because he realizes that it is not just the recipe that has to be spot-on, it is the Earth's alignment with the Sun, the Moon, with Venus, Mars and the stars in the Pleiades cluster. Here, Science and Astrology meet.

But (Jack warns), in exchange for the secret of concocting gold in a cauldron, a mystery man offers to the alchemist a large bag of uncut diamonds, excavated in ancient times from King David's mines, and smuggled out of Africa in a peasant's pants.

There was only one bag of priceless diamonds: but the alchemist could always make *more* gold.

The alchemist was murdered for both the diamonds and the gold: murdered in the name of Greed.



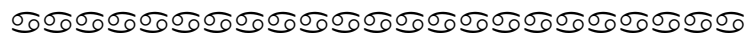
The apocryphal man's wife wished his body to be laid out on rocks. Years later, she retrieved the bones, which she placed in an ivory box. A couple of miracles later, and the alchemist is now a saint, venerated by the Spanish (especially by those in South America) as San Gandro.

Gandore "gets" the story: he understands that it is about himself. Jack is concerned that Gandore needs a strong-arm to guard him.

The handmaiden Maglia brings an armful of superb red roses to Gandore. Maglia is played by the same actress who plays Tess Buxton.

Jack is entranced and suggests that he might start a dalliance with Maglia. But Gandore laughs at Jack's randiness. Maglia has a sister: a very wise lady, of great beauty. No longer slave or servant, Sophie acts as organizer (ensuring that the caravan runs smoothly).

On meeting Sophie, Jack is struck dumb and becomes a clumsy wreck. The actress playing Sophie also plays Fiona Buxton.



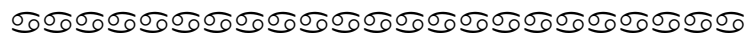
At Segler's Landing, Helene wonders how Fiona is getting on. Helene despairs of marrying Fiona to anyone: her standards are too high.

In order to emulate Gandore's success in making gold by means of alchemy, Beaversnade took up residence at the Inge Ferry Inn at Darsley, using the brew house and several loose boxes in the stable yard for his experiments. These were a failure, forcing Beaversnade to wander about the countryside decrying his fate.

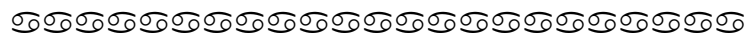
That being the case, Holly and Helene wonder how on earth Beaversnade managed to get himself buried in St Paul's Cathedral.



In a small figure garden attached to the Royal Parthenon Suite in London, Sir Lentock Broughborough and Desmond Grantley wear correct public service attire, even down to the bowler hats. Sir Lentock practises golf while Desmond reads aloud from “The Pardoner’s Tale”. Desmond wonders if more carrier pigeons are expected, and then focuses on there being four buckets full of gold pieces in the cautionary tale.



Helene drives Holly to the local shops in order to purchase items from a list provided by Raine. Holly reads through Raine’s list aloud.



Holly is no longer in Helene’s car. She has been magically transported to the Inge Ferry Inn (Darsley near Maldon). The year is 1594. She is now seated in an old horse-drawn coach alongside Julian Beaversnade.

Beaversnade is sending Holly to the caravan on the Old Silk Road in order to hook-up with Gandore, who will provide the necessary items (listed for Holly’s convenience). No money is required as Beaversnade’s credit is good with any nation or race. However, we are given to understand that Beaversnade is not welcome at many hostleries, as he has a habit of blowing-up his temporary work shops.

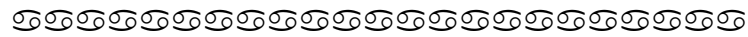
Holly tells herself to simply go along with this time travel event, as she survived Westania, so why not this.

Holly has knowledge of events (for instance the death of Queen Elizabeth and the ascension to the throne of the Scot James I) which fascinates Beaversnade. He intends to make a deal of money by gulling gentleman, fleecing them of their wealth with the aid of Holly’s information.

Beaversnade passes to Holly a small phial of tea-coloured liquid.

Holly has (attached to her sash) the vial containing the elixir which will bring her back to Beaversnade.

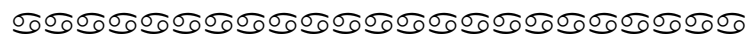
With a theatrical flourish, Beaversnade orders Holly to drink from the phial. She does so and a large explosion heralds her departure.



Propped up against a camel and eating grandly, Gordon chats with his sons George and William. He advises them as to how to treat girls and women with suave wisdom.

Nearby a large campfire burns, men play musical instruments as they wail. Women dance about

The subject of Gordon's meeting Holly for the first time is revisited. William reveals that George has had sex with the Vicar's daughter. This leads to some brotherly wrestling. Gordon shakes George's hand, congratulates him and then goes off to bed.



In the study of Frank's villa (in Buenos Aires) Toby describes the temple to Frank, who is confused and disbelieving as he has ridden in that location many times. He has only ever found the small cave already described to the brothers. Toby is adamant and Frank admits that there have been tales and whispers without number about the Calpaquez Indians in that vicinity.

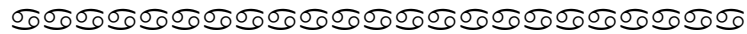
Toby pours the diamonds onto the surface of the polished table. He explains that the owner has full possession and therefore the diamonds belong to Frank. The latter is overcome and asks why. Toby discusses the play "Cupiditas" with Frank, demanding that Frank cease with the bilious rubbish he now serves up and to concentrate on his opus magnum.

Toby now turns his attentions to his inconsolable brother, whom he must drag out of his dudgeon.



Laurence continues to lash himself for killing a fellow human being.

Toby discusses with him the idea of phoning home to re-assure all parties and of the plan to rescue their mother: Frank and Toby have tentatively booked three seats on a small plane for Friday afternoon, which will give them time to reconnect with their mother. Laurence promptly snaps out of his self-absorbed reverie.



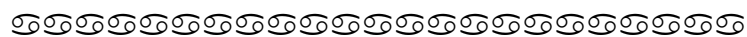
Frank is involved in a serious game of bridge at a well-populated bridge club (Buenos Aires). His stepdaughter Anguella (who is also Trahilai) catches his attention.

Eyes blazing, Anguella asks if the famous diamonds of King David's mine have been found.

She relates to Frank her vivid dream: that she was torturing two men. They were a father/son duo. In a dungeon. It all had to do with King David's loot.

Now, there had been a myriad rumours (with reference to the Conquistadors who sought to plunder the Calpaquez gold). But one of these Spanish noblemen was said to have also obtained a stash of uncut diamonds indirectly from traders who plied the Old Spice Route.

Sensing Anguella's greed, Frank diverts her by pointing out the moral lesson contained in his Chaucer play; he advises that she read this.



On the Old Silk Road, we have returned to the interior of Gandore's Tent.

Gandore (dressed in his wizard rigout) puts on a magic show with coloured smoke. His cauldron spills out glorious colours as he mutters incantations and ponces about.

William excitedly introduces Gordon to Marco Polo.

Jack is being difficult: catcalling and laughing immoderately.

Gandore's trick is to make Eleesha appear under a veil.

Gandore takes Eleesha's hand in the theatrical manner, to lead her from the vicinity of the cauldron.

To everyone's surprise (especially Gandore) another woman is found to be kneeling under the veil. She is Holly, and she is now greeted with great joy and affection by William, George and Gordon. Gandore is jubilant, calling Holly "Princess Ilex".

ACT IV

Scene i: 1969, Segler's Landing, Interior

Fiona has been staying alone at Holly's house, whilst she works on her Master's thesis. Fiona is played by the same actress who plays Sophie.

She has driven over to Segler's Landing to visit her mother (Helene) and to comfort Raine: Raine has been discovered by Roger to be having sex with a tradesman, and so Raine has called Fiona over to the Landing.

Roger and Fiona indulge in a "snitching" session whereby Roger (in trying to score points has all the tact of a massacred trout) mercilessly baits Fiona (who is Olympic standard at turning Roger's venom back on himself).

Scene ii: 1969, Segler's Landing, Exterior

Since Raine is locked away, Fiona intends to leave but is forestalled by Helene returning late from the shopping expedition.

Helene is not so much appalled to hear of Raine's romp as shocked that another disaster should have been added to the growing list. Helene reveals that Holly is missing and that the police are involved in the search. It is the weird nature of all these happenings which appeals to Fiona: she wonders if the Westania forces (refer Film #1) might not be at work.

Scene iii: 1969, Segler's Landing, Interior, Another Day

Roger can report to the ladies (Raine, Helene, Fiona and Tess) that although Holly has not yet been located, his wife and two sons are accounted for. The ladies breathlessly watch the TV for any news of Holly. Thus, they witness the BBC newflash that hijackers have taken over a plane in which Toby and Laurence are now in grave danger.

(Although Judith is also reported as being a passenger, she dipped-out at the last minute).

Scene iv: 1969, The Hijack Drama On A Small Aeroplane, In Mid-Air

Frenzied people rush about in the passenger area of the small plane.

Four of the seven hijackers are in fact played by the same actors who played the four interlopers of ACT II, Scene (x). These hombres are extremely aggressive, attacking or scaring as many of the passengers as they can.

Toby and Laurence remain calm as they crouch on the floor. From boyhood memories evolves a plan whereby they will emulate the fighting success of Bing Crosby and Bob Hope.

The hijackers are confused when the brothers go into the "Pattacake, pattacake" routine, in homage to the "Road" movies of Crosby and Hope. At the appropriate juncture in the routine, the brothers throw strong, telling punches, floor their attackers, and launch themselves into an almighty brawl, with the object of disabling the remaining hijackers.

A very exciting fight ensues, wherein more of the male passengers join in, such that the bandits are disarmed and securely bound up. All the gents shake hands with each other, offering each other congratulations, as if this had been a Sunday cricket match.

The brothers are chuffed at their bravery but do not speak of it. Instead, they plan to work on Laurence's golf swing when they land.

Scene v: 1969, Jinnah Airport, Karachi, West Pakistan

There is a media scrum awaiting Toby, Laurence and the other distraught passengers. Out of this rabble, Maria emerges: frantic and utterly relieved. She and Toby go into a very passionate embrace. They hire a battered 4-wheel-drive Jeep, which Toby now drives.

Scene vi: 1969, Driving in the Wilderness, West Pakistan

Maria reads aloud from a dreadful bodice-ripper as Toby drives the Jeep through rough terrain in West Pakistan. Laurence is the other passenger. Caught be a fit of helpless laughter, Toby loses control of the car. The travellers are not hurt, but Toby's carelessness causes Maria to suffer a complete melt-down. She shies rocks at both brothers, cursing them vociferously as she does so.

Toby and Laurence proceed to engage in practising golf, which further enrages Maria. Slouching off as her ill-humour winds down, she sees the Old Silk Road caravan from her vantage point.

INTERLUDE: 1969, Choir Practice, St Paul's Cathedral

The choir master conducts the St Paul's Choristers in a lovely rendition of "For All The Saints" (to organ accompaniment). The voices are in the background, as we work through the "Overview" book (with its matching filmic episodes).

Words on the page of the filmed book	Matching filmed episode
The wedding of the year is just one week away ...	Raine models her wedding gown.
Julian Beaversnade wends his way about the English countryside.	Beaversnade is thrown of another English inn. Smoke billows in his wake.
The several members of the Old Silk Road caravan trudge relentlessly onwards.	Marco Polo is entertaining a merry group of people in a tent.
Our lovely bride acquaints herself with her soon-to-be brother-in-law.	Raine is in bed, making passionate love with a naval officer.
Roger's wife, Judith, wings her way back to her loved ones ...	Judith is in an aeroplane, flying back to England, with a cocktail held between her fingers.
It is considered advisable for young warriors to	Hidden and camouflaged, William, George and Marco are seen to try and shoot an apple from

practise their art.	atop a nervous elephant's head with blunt arrows.
Frank dines comfortably with his step-daughter.	Anguella and Frank are dining out in Buenos Aires. They argue angrily.
The wedding preparations continue.	Fiona, Tess and Helene sit about a table at Segler's Landing, making lists and drinking tea.
More correspondence arrives "par avian"	Sir Lentock sticks small pieces of ripped-up paper into a large serving of bombe Alaska. Then he begins to eat the paper-laden dessert.
Raine, a radiant bride, receives even more wedding presents	Raine is in a passionate, steamy embrace with a slim actor, in the bowels of the National Theatre.
The caravan meanders along, across West Pakistan	Maria, Toby and Laurence stare down from their vantage point at the slow approach of the Old Silk Road caravan.
Margaret, the long-lost sister of Holly and Roger, enjoys wedded bliss in South Australia	Margaret Allendale has married to Albert Pitch.
Jack Bradley finds enjoyment in a strong cup of tea.	Revisit Jack standing in Gandore's tent having knocked over his tea and been rescued by Sophie.

Scene vii: The Old Silk Road, The Caravan, In A Dark, Private Spot

Jack and Sophie indulge in a vomitous melodramatic love-scene which is thankfully interrupted by Gandore urgently calling for Jack's help. The star-crossed lovers waffle on about how they cannot ever live in each other's world.

Scene viii: The Old Silk Road, Gandore's Tent During A Fierce Storm

Gandore is excited. The heavenly signs dictate the timing for making gold. Moreover, Holly (as Princess Ilex) has confirmed to Gandore that he will succeed in making gold. Lightning strikes as Jack warily watches Gandore's wizardly activities. Elated, Gandore enlists Jack as his protector, should the mystery man show up. With growing intensity, Gandore brews gold in his cauldron.

The hooded mystery man arrives quietly. When Jack tries to protect Gandore, the man throws some chemical into Jack's face, causing him to scream in agony. Gandore tries to resist the stranger, who is offering to Gandore a handful of diamonds. Gandore knows the danger, yet still he allows the stranger to lead him away.

By the time Sophie assists Jack by bathing his eyes, Gandore has gone with the hooded stranger.

During a fierce lightning strike, William and Marco see Trahilai and her Durawarriors taking up attacking positions.

The general panic is brought under control by the English people. Camels and elephants are taken to safety, women and children are rounded up for protection and the men are armed. And then the Durawarriors attack. The battle rages in the thunderstorm.

Marco dives to his knees to collect some necessary chemicals scattered about what was Gandore's tent.

The Durawarriors gain the upper hand as more and more men are killed or captured.

Making a poisonous concoction, Marco can disable the Durawarriors by pinging them with a blowpipe (whereby the darts are dipped in the liquid). William assists him. The boys notice that the heavily-armoured Durawarriors are like turtles on their backs once they are grounded.

Marco and William gather up heavy chains into their arms.

Scene ix: Reprise Of The Dream Sequence Where Gordon And George Are In Trouble

Gordon and George relive their nightmare, only this time it is for real. Trahilai demands the diamonds. Father and son wish each other farewell, knowing that they will be murdered.

Trahilai with her foreign accent, and venom in her tone, speaks in a low voice.

As Trahilai lifts her large sword in order to kill George, rocks begin pelting into her back. Trahilai screams in pain. She is wounded.

The occupants of the dungeon look towards a high rock ledge where Maria stands like some ancient goddess of Fate: feisty and ready for action. A couple of the henchmen rush towards her, but are forced to withdraw as more rocks rain down on them.

With the waspishness typical of Maria, we learn that diamonds are a waste of time. Maria refers to her own engagement ring.

Gordon and George are gobsmacked, but realize that if Maria is here then so too are Toby and Laurence.

Maria maintains her vantage point, with large rocks gripped in her hands. A spear is thrown at her. This she deftly dodges. Maria is still smarting from Toby's comments about her lousy aim.

Maria continues to throw rock after rock with seeming endless energy at the astounded group below.

Scene x: The Durawarriors Continue To Attack The Caravan

With the Durawarriors gaining the upper hand, William, Marco and Jack use the heavy chain to bring the Durawarriors to the ground, tripping them.

The males from the caravan are rescued, and the disabled Durawarriors are finished off.

Scene xi: Return To The Dungeon At The Fort

Maria fights the injured Trahilai on the high ledge.

Maria is utterly brilliant as she parries every one of Trahilai's sword thrusts with her rocks. Maria clobbers Trahilai's face and throat, such that the virago is completely done for. Trahilai collapses onto the stone ledge, then dramatically rolls off.

Maria nimbly jumps down from the rock ledge to where Trahilai lies, exhausted. Whilst all the startled onlookers are stationary (either from their bindings, or from sheer surprise) Maria deftly hoicks the sword from Trahilai's grasp, and plunges the sword several times into Trahilai, killing her outright.

Without emotion Maria states: “Diamonds, my dear girl, are **completely** overrated. And not worth dying for.”

Maria frees Gordon and George from their bindings, commenting that Toby and Laurence are fighting outside the dungeon and that she should help them (not that they are worth saving!)

Scene xii: In The Antechamber Of The Dungeon At The Fort

Toby and Laurence fight tooth-and-nail with two remaining Durawarriors. The floor of the antechamber is littered with disabled warriors, including the three men previously guarding Gordon and George, who now join the fray.

A dark, malevolent shape darkens the doorway. Everyone (even those Durawarriors prostrated in their restrictive armour) gasps and trembles at the sight of the mysterious stranger (the one who led Gandore away). The large hood of Death renders his face unseen. He holds a velvet drawstring bag in one hand.

Toby and Laurence tremble, so like the Pardoner’s Tale as this is.

Maria walks straight up to the mysterious stranger (Death), treats him with barely concealed contempt and proceeds to hoick the velvet bag from his resistless fingers. She peers inside the bag and announces that therein lies a king’s ransom in gold and diamonds.

Maria then has the effrontery to insist that Death help the others to tidy up the place by arranging the bodies in an orderly fashion. But that is too much for Death, who bids a hasty retreat.

Maria, swinging her heavy velvet bag, saunters off.

The English people and Jack reunite with hugs and kisses.

The caravan is all but destroyed. Some of the members of the caravan lie dead and injured, and the mourners wail and screech. Small spot fires have broken out, and people seem to wander about, in a post-trauma daze. Sophie and Maglia race about, trying to restore order.

Holly holds up her hands for silence. However, Maria must always have the last word, blaming Toby for the shipwreck.

Holly drinks the draught provided for her by Beaversnade. All those wishing to return to England hold hands: Holly, Gordon, William, Marco, George, Laurence, Maria, Toby and Jack (who is devastated to be leaving Sophie). At the last nanosecond, Marco dashes off. William tries to follow him, but his wrists are grabbed by Gordon and George.

And so they return home in the darkness with the wedding of the year only two hours away.

Here follows more of THE PARDONER'S TALE as narrated by Gus Cassius (to be continued)

ACT V

Scene i: Late 1969, St Paul's Cathedral, London. General View.

It is a glorious day as crowds gather outside the cathedral.

Scene ii: Late 1969, St Paul's Cathedral, The Vestry.

Jack arrives unceremoniously at the vestry of the cathedral. He asks Helene if she has seen Holly (whom he describes, not knowing that Helene and Holly are cousins).

Helene and Fiona have been decorating the vestry with flowers, and worrying about the non-appearance of the family.

Jack then spots Fiona and thinks that she is Sophia. He calls her "Fee" which might stand for either name. He kisses Fiona with great affection.

Scene iii: Late 1969, Another Part of St Paul's Cathedral, London.

We revisit the grave of Julian Beaversnade.

Two of the wedding guests (dressed correctly in morning suits) have decided to while-away a spare half-hour in these precincts of St Paul's cathedral. These gentlemen are Sir Lentock Broughborough and his aide Desmond Grantley.

These gentlemen chance upon the following scene, and stand about making erudite comments as a small crowd of goggle-eyed spectators gradually gathers.

Julian Beaversnade, dressed in his 16th century costume of rich velvet, struts about beside his own grave.

Sir Lentock is impressed, thinking that this is a historical re-enactment. In his mind, death and graves are boring, but this re-enactment transforms the scene at once into a precious, living memory. And the on-lookers will give more to the Cathedral Fund. Holly's sudden, dramatic appearance (in costume) adds to the presentation and attracts more applause. Beaversnade is overjoyed to see her once more.

Beaversnade proposes without delay to his Princess Ilex.

Holly approaches Beaversnade in haste, shoving the beaded bag into his hands.

Gandore sent specific instructions (Holly tells him) and that he will also find some of Gandore's gold as proof that Gandore finally managed the feat. Beaversnade is overwhelmed with love and gratitude. However, Holly speeds off to attend her niece's wedding. As she leaves, she strongly advises the alchemist to give his gold to the poor and become a much-loved benefactor.

Beaversnade totters off, muttering. The would-be audience is unsure if the show is finished; their applause is lukewarm at best.

Sir Lentock and Desmond stroll away, wondering if the society wedding itself will be a thing of military precision.

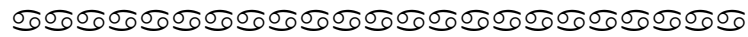


Sir Lentock and Desmond wander about, admiring the delightful tableau/pageant being performed in costume.

However, this is no more than the various characters arriving from the Old Silk Road.

Toby and Maria decide to make a match of it. Jack stumbles into Fiona (the image of his Sophie). He calls her "Fee" and kisses her passionately.

Everyone has made it. Holly and Maria (the only females) will change in a small room, whilst the men can disrobe in the vestry. Their clothing will be delivered promptly by Malcolm.



The arrival of the official party outside the St Paul's Cathedral causes a frenzied reaction from the media scrum. Roger is determined to be a snob, making a huge fuss that his sister's new husband (an Australian aborigine) is not welcome at the wedding.

Judith surprises everyone and shocks Roger by baldly stating that Roger was completely wrong and that from now on SHE would adopt the role of head of family.

The lovely bride is escorted by her father into the cathedral, as they follow in Judith's wake.

The Wedding Of The Year.

William has never seen Trahilai/Anguella, so ushers Frank and his stepdaughter to their seats without qualms.

William also ushers in Margaret and Albert, with Jack playing didgeridoo from the clerestory.

The wedding march is heard, and the bride's party gather at the door.

Roger escorts Raine (whose veil covers her face) to the altar. There are smirks and nudges from the groomsmen (they have all slept with the bride).

The ceremony begins, conducted by the Vicar of London. The Archbishop of Canterbury is very conspicuous but is as yet an onlooker.

In the very back row sit the four cousins who are ushers: Toby, Laurence, George and William. Toby is asleep, breathing deeply and almost snoring.

Anguella sees a glint flashing from the belfry. She excuses herself politely to Frank and slips away.

However, George also spots the glinting metal as well. He does not recognize Anguella as she is wearing a huge hat. He smells the distinctive smell which warns him of danger.

George is shot in the shoulder. He darts out of his seat followed by William and then Laurence.

As the Pendlebury brothers argue, another shot is fired, narrowly missing their heads.

William (thrilled beyond measure by the turn of events) wants to search the vestry for a secret arsenal: guns, rifles and grenades. George is disgusted at such stupidity and Laurence sees the funny side.

The excitement builds as Gordon calmly shoots a villain in the clerestory who is stalking Jack. (Gordon's gun has a silencer). The man dramatically drops with a loud thud to the hard stone floor, with Fiona covering by claiming in a whisper that the man has fainted.

Laurence steels himself by repeating Toby's mantra, and sets off to assist Jack and the family, with George and William just behind him.

Up in the clerestory, Jack is firing bullets (using a silencer) at a group of assassins who have infiltrated the wedding. One of the miscreants is Anguella, with huge hat removed.

The fight is very exciting, involving Gordon (from his pew), Jack, William, Laurence and George. Jack has passed a small revolver to Laurence, whose aim is quite good. William and George whisper advice. Two of the miscreants are severely wounded.

Unaware of the overhead fracas, the Vicar of London pronounces that the bride and groom are now married, and the kiss follows.

Now the ceremony includes a hymn.

During the hymn, a boomerang whizzes through the chapel above the congregation, taking out a miscreant who is threatening George.

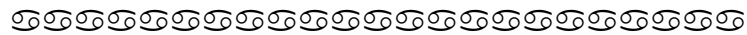
Sir Lentock and Desmond ponder the forethought of Albert (one-time Test cricketer) to bring along a boomerang to society's biggest wedding of 1969.

Maria acts swiftly. Pretending to drop her hymnal accidentally, she stoops to pick it up and then stands again as if nothing has happened. Whilst stooping, she has adroitly shot and killed Anguella with a bejewelled pistol.

Toby remains asleep as the fight continues above.

Sir Lentock and Desmond wonder what will be the bride's reaction when she discovers what REALLY went on at her wedding.

With Sir Lentock and Desmond smiling smugly, Raine is heard screaming from inside the vestry.



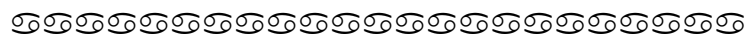
Mingled with the wedding guests are policemen in SWAT jackets who drag the miscreants into the vans. Several bodies are removed, covered on stretchers.

Sir Lentock welcomes his daughter: Maria. She hands over a bag of diamonds. She instructs that they be used to purchase new RAF jets.

Sir Lentock demands Toby's share, too. However, those diamonds are to be used in aid of the British theatre.

Although Desmond wonders if Jack and Maria might not make a match of it, Maria indicates that Jack and Fiona have fallen very much in love and will marry. Maria herself will wed Toby.

There is solemn acceptance of Frank's loss: his stepdaughter Trahilai is dead.



We return to The Queen Alexandra Theatrette in London's East End. The final scenes of "Cupiditas" are being staged before an audience. The production is met with riotous applause.

The last part of THE PARDONER'S TALE as narrated by Gus Cassius

In this case it is as a rehearsal for a stage production, watched by Toby and Maria.

Maria and Toby are engaged. Toby is satisfied and hopes that he is remembered for having financed this play.