

A game-jam quest written for an Arthurian open-world game. Player-character Sir Tristan is a Knight of the Round Table, exploring Ingelonde (England) in search of honour and glory. This scene is triggered at the smoking wreck of a lone house:

CINEMATIC:

The house has been torn in two: wooden splinters still glow red and smoke slowly rises from the ruin.

Outside the house sits a woman, sitting upon a stone next to the lifeless body of a man. She stoically carves at a long stick, turning one end into a javelin point.

TRISTAN
What evil passed here?

The woman does not look up.

WOMAN
Do you hunt, sir knight?

TRISTAN
I do.

WOMAN
Have you hunted much of devils?

Tristan is interested.

WOMAN (CONT'D)
An unholy beast of black fur and blue fire killed my husband. I will pay it in kind.

TRISTAN
My lady, it is my duty to take this quest in your place. Whatever did this may need more force than the weapon you hold.

WOMAN
Then my hands and teeth would do the deed. Will you assist me, or shall I test my spear upon you?

OPTION A:

TRISTAN
This quest is mine alone.

OPTION B:

TRISTAN
I am yours to command.

OPTION A

"This quest is mine alone."

The woman snaps her gaze up to meet Tristan's.

WOMAN

Then I shall make good on my word.

CUT TO:

GAMEPLAY:

The woman attacks the Player with her makeshift javelin as a weapon, no match for your might. The player can kill her here or flee.

IF: the player flees and then later finds the Beast, the woman will be dead nearby, her javelin split in two.

END.

OPTION B

"I am yours to command."

The woman makes a final cut at her makeshift javelin and stands up. She finally looks at Tristan, sizes him up, and turns her gaze to a forest in the distance.

WOMAN

Then follow with haste.

CUT TO:

GAMEPLAY:

The woman leads the Player towards the forest.

TRISTAN

I see no tracks.

WOMAN

Its feet are light. Its maw is strong.

As you approach the forest:

TRISTAN

I smell it.

The woman's pace slows and an otherworldly THRUM is heard in the forest.

She comes to a halt on the forest's edge.

WOMAN

Be warned, knight, the final blow
is mine to give. My husband's life
is not yours to repay.

In the forest, the beast attacks. It's a chimera of snake and dog, covered in black sheep's wool and spilling liquid fire from its mouth.

On bringing the beast's health near-zero, the Player is prompted to **call to the woman to attack**, or they may ignore the prompt and **take the final blow for themselves**.

OPTION B-1

The woman takes the final blow.

The woman hefts her javelin and, with a blood-curling SCREAM, throws it with all her might.

It flies straight and true into the heart of the beast. The beast rears its head to the heavens with a SCREECH and then slumps to the Earth. Dead.

CUT TO:

CINEMATIC:

The woman steps to the beast and catches her breath as she stands over its stiff, lifeless corpse. Tristan steps next to her.

WOMAN

Thank you.

Tristan nods. He pulls the javelin out from the beast and offers it to the woman. She simply turns and walks away, leaving Tristan holding the javelin.

(note: the player can loot the beast for a gameplay reward)

ON RETURNING TO THE BURNED HOUSE:

Inside the wreckage, the woman stirs a pot of stew that sits on an open fire.

WOMAN
Greetings, sir knight.

CUT TO:

CINEMATIC:

The woman's eyes are red and her cheeks are stained with tears. The husband lies next to her, still unburied.

Tristan sits across the fire.

TRISTAN
What will you do next, my lady?

WOMAN
Elayne. That is my name. Thanks to you, I am returned to myself.

Tristan nods.

Elayne looks at the wreckage of her home, and then down to her husband.

ELAYNE
Fortune favoured my Eric and I. We both set the other free from the world. Now I must return to it. Alone.

TRISTAN
A woman who slayed such a beast can face all the machines of the world.

Elayne smiles wryly.

ELAYNE
I shall return my husband to his home in Ipswich and make myself a living there. Think not of me, fair knight. For your part, you have done all there is to assist me.

TRISTAN
All but to say I am sorry for your grief.

Elayne nods, accepting the condolence.

ELAYNE
It is a blessing you found me.

Tristan smiles sadly and stands.

TRISTAN
Fare thee well, Elayne.

END.

OPTION B-2

The Player takes the final blow.

With the Player's strike, the beast is knocked to the earth and dies with a final SCREECH to the heavens.

CINEMATIC:

Tristan steps to the beast and stands over its stiff, lifeless corpse. The woman steps next to him, wrath for the beast written clear on her face.

TRISTAN
'Tis done.

The woman looks to Tristan with the same wrath.

WOMAN
Th'art a false knight.

The woman turns and walks away, leaving Tristan alone.

ON RETURNING TO THE BURNED HOUSE:

Inside the wreckage, the woman stirs a pot of stew that sits on an open fire. The husband lies next to her, still unburied.

WOMAN
You are not welcome here, false knight!

If the Player does not leave:

WOMAN (CONT'D)
Begone! And take thy glory with thee.

END.