

## The Wardrobe Audition Scene 2

*Anytime between 1665 and 1770, night*

*The wardrobe is no longer in England and has instead been sold to a family abroad.*

*(This scene is to be translated into whichever language is relevant or interesting to the players.)*

*We hear sounds of the time and place*

*ONE, a seventeen-year-old, and TWO, a fifteen-year-old, kneel opposite one another. (The sex of the characters can be assigned to suit availability.) ONE teaches TWO how to fight with a knife.*

*They work by the light of a lantern of a style native to the time and place.*

ONE. Never hold the knife from underneath. If you try to stab someone with your hand underneath the blade you will bend your wrist back.

*ONE demonstrates the incorrect way to stab with a knife. TWO watches intently.*

ONE. Do not do it that way. You need to protect your wrist.

*ONE demonstrates the correct way to hold a knife by curling his fingers over the top of the handle rather than underneath.*

ONE. Do you see the difference? Look at my wrist. Look at the joint: my hand, my wrist and my arm are all in a straight line. This allows for maximum impact with minimum vulnerability. Like so.

*ONE demonstrates a stabbing action with the knife.*

ONE. No matter the angle of entry, my wrist is protected. I can withdraw and go in again.

*ONE demonstrates a repeated stabbing action.*

ONE. Try it.

*TWO is reluctant.*

ONE. Try it.

*TWO takes the knife and attempts to imitate ONE.*

ONE. Keep your wrist straight. Not just once. Many times.

*ONE takes TWO by the hand and helps her/him to practise*

ONE. One, two, three, four, five, six, yes? You need to inflict as much damage as you can in the smallest amount of time. But avoid the chest. You are not strong enough.

*ONE places TWO'S hand against her/his ribs.*

TWO. Feel my ribs. You're not strong enough to push through bone. *(Motioning to the throat)* Aim here. Under the chin.

*ONE takes the knife and demonstrates an upward slabbing motion toward the throat.*

ONE. Stand up.

*They stand. ONE gives TWO the knife.*

ONE. Practise.

*ONE practices attacking with the knife. TWO easily disarms ONE. ONE cries out.*

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ONE. Shhh! If you are disarmed and they grab you, aim for the eyes. A man can build his muscles but he cannot make his eyelashes any stronger. Also, he cannot chase you if he cannot see.

*ONE teaches TWO how to disable an attacker, by holding him/her securely.*

ONE. If he has you in his arms use your thumbs. Push your thumb into the eye socket.

*TWO fights to get an arm free*

ONE. Kick my knee.

*TWO kicks ONE in the knee and pulls an arm free*

ONE. Aim for the eye socket. Do as much damage as you can.

*TWO struggles to reach ONE'S eyes and is overpowered. TWO pushes ONE into the floor. ONE cries out. TWO puts a hand over ONE'S mouth.*

ONE. If he grabs you from behind, reach back, grab his genitals and pull as hard as you can in any direction.

*ONE cries. TWO releases her/him.*

ONE. Look at me. Look at me. You can do this.

TWO. I cannot.

ONE. Yes you can.

TWO. No.

ONE. You can. You are so much stronger than you think. If you are practised, if you have trained your mind, it will be automatic: eyes, throat, genitals. You can do it.

*ONE firms his grip on TWO. They struggle in silence on the floor, TWO is almost overpowered again, but suddenly with a free hand TWO grabs the knife from the floor and turns on ONE piercing his/her neck with the point. Beads of blood trickle down ONE'S neck. ONE puts a hand to his throat and sees blood on his fingers.*

ONE. Good. Good. Again.