

RISPAH #1
(two scenes)

INT. SAUL'S WAR TENT - DAY

Saul is distracted, pacing. Rizpah approaches, gives him a cup of wine.

RIZPAH
Drink this.

SAUL
I don't want wine.

RIZPAH
Your battle will be here soon enough, my king. You need to put it out of your mind.

SAUL
So easily said.

Saul goes to the door of his tent, looks out at his men.

SAUL (CONT'D)
What do you see when you sleep?
The faces of your loved ones?

RIZPAH
They are no more. I do not think of them. I cannot remember their faces.

SAUL
I see the faces of the men I've torn apart.
(haunted)
Is this how I am to be remembered?
As Saul The Butcher?

RIZPAH
If you carry out God's command,
then you are Saul The Deliverer.

Her words give him courage. He grabs her by the waist. She smiles at him.

RIZPAH (CONT'D)
You are a mighty king. You are god's chosen. Do not forget who you are.

She kisses him. The kiss lingers. And then the tent flap opens: Ish-Boseth.

ISH-BOSETH
A rider approaches.

INT. ACHISH'S TENT - CONTINUOUS

Achish moves past the spy, into his tent.

ACHISH
We have been waiting for you. What news?

Rizpah pushes her hood back.

RIZPAH
The tribes are united but only for the moment. Samuel's prophesy has taken hold of their hearts. They doubt.

ACHISH
Our friend from the house of Ruben?

RIZPAH
He sows dissent. And fear.

ACHISH
If he left now, how many of the tribes would go with him?

RIZPAH
(a guess)
Three? Four? He would lose at least two thousand men.

ACHISH
(that's good news)
And Judah?

RIZPAH
(a shrug)
His daughter is to marry the prince. Judah believes his grandson will sit on Saul's throne.

ACHISH
He will see reason when the other tribes flee. Tell me about Saul.

RIZPAH

The prophet's curse is upon him.
His wit is clouded. He drinks to
excess.

ACHISH

In bed?

RIZPAH

He is weak.

ACHISH

Good.

He is confident, determined. Rizpah smiles.

RIZPAH

Is there a message for the Elder of
Ruben?

Achish goes to the door.

ACHISH

Yes.

(to Rizpah)

It is time for him to leave Gibeah.
And he should take who he can with
him.

(calling)

Get me a scribe!

RIZPAH #2

EXZ. PALACE - DAY

Ahinoam is loading a few final packages onto the wagon. A servant holds the horse. Merav and Michal are behind. Behind them, Rizpah with one last package of food.

MICHAL

I won't go.

AHINOAM

I'm not giving you a choice.

Rizpah hands Ahinoam the last parcel.

MICHAL

You want us to run, like cowards,
when my father and my brothers will
battle to the death--

AHINOAM

Get in the wagon.

MICHAL

I won't.

AHINOAM

Rizpah!

Rizpah, who is about to go, stops and turns.

RIZPAH

Yes, my queen?

AHINOAM

How old were you when your kingdom
fell?

RIZPAH

Fifteen.

AHINOAM

And what happened?

Rizpah does not speak for a moment.

AHINOAM (CONT'D)

(insistent)

Tell my daughter what happened. To
your mother. To your father. When
your people were conquered.

RIZPAH

My father was killed at the city gates. King Moav had his head put on a spike and carried it into my mother's bedroom so that his unseeing eyes could witness his violation of her. He brought his generals into her chambers and after he was finished they each claimed their right to her.

AHINOAM

How many were there?

RIZPAH

I...

AHINOAM

Tell her.

RIZPAH

I do not know, my queen.

AHINOAM

You were there?

RIZPAH

I was under the bed.

AHINOAM

And when they found you?

MICHAL

Mother stop-

AHINOAM

And when they found you?!

RISPAH

They did the same to me. Then King Moav put a knife into my mother that tore her in two. But I was young, and valuable. They sold me to the Edomites. Who traded me to our great king. Saul the deliverer.

There is a silence at this. Ahinoam turns to her daughters.

AHINOAM

So. You want to stay for that?

She climbs onto the wagon, Merav follows. Michal looks at Rizpah. After a moment, she follows Merav.