



THERE ARE SMALL HOLES CIRCLING THIS RUNE.

BEN IS GETTING HIS TOOLS FROM THE WAGON. HE'LL HAVE A LOOK.

THIS ANCIENT RUNE MUST MEAN **SOMETHING**. I WONDER WHAT LANGUAGE IT IS?

NORWEGIAN, I WOULD IMAGINE.



UNCLE!

I HAVE BEEN STUDYING FOR THIS DAY FOR YEARS, PORING OVER ARCAIC TEXTS. SO **YES**, I RECOGNIZE THE RUNE.

AND THOSE HOLES YOU SO CLEVERLY IDENTIFIED ARE WHY WE ALSO NEED THE **MAP**.

YOU **DID** BRING THE MAP, DIDN'T YOU?



WE'VE HIDDEN THE MAP WHERE YOU'LL **NEVER** FIND IT. WE'D RATHER DIE THAN TELL YOU--

YES, HERE IT IS RIGHT HERE.



JUST... REALLY?

SORRY.



I BELIEVE THE MAP SHOWS A PICTURE OF THIS TOWN WITH A CIRCLE OF DOTS AROUND THE MAIN BUILDING. **THIS BUILDING**.



LOOK, HE'S RIGHT.

THE DOTS CORRESPOND EXACTLY TO THE SMALL HOLES ENCIRCLING THE RUPE ON THE FLOOR.

DO YOU SUPPOSE IT'S SOME KIND OF MECHANISM? IF I HAD A KNITTING NEEDLE OR SOMETHING TO POKE DOWN IN THERE—

WHAT NOW? YOU TAKE THE MAP AND KILL US?



ON THE CONTRARY, I NEED YOU AND MY LOVELY NIECE TO WORK THE LOCK. THESE OLD VIKING TYPES WERE RATHER CLEVER ABOUT TRAPS.



YOU CAN GO TO HELL, HAMMOND. I'M NOT LIFTING A FINGER TO HELP A TRAITOR.



YOU'LL DO EXACTLY AS YOU'RE TOLD, MR. WASHINGTON, OR I WILL BLOW YOUR MISS KATE'S BRAINS OUT THE BACK OF HER SKULL.

THEN MY MAN DRUMKNOTT WILL SHOOT YOU. CAESAR AND BRUTUS CAN FEAST ON THE REMAINS.

AND DON'T SHOUT FOR YOUR FRIENDS. MY MEN OUTSIDE HAVE ORDERS TO CUT THEM DOWN IF THEY TRY TO ENTER THE BUILDING.



SHUT UP, THE BOTH OF YOU. UNCLE, HAND ME THE RAMROD FROM YOUR PISTOL. I THINK THAT MIGHT DO THE TRICK.



GLAD AT LEAST ONE OF YOU SEES REASON. GO CAREFULLY, MY DEAR.

"WHAT THE HELL'S TAKING YOU SO LONG, BEN?"



I'M GATHERING TOOLS. JUST GIVE ME A MINUTE, DAMN IT.

SOMETHING'S SPOOKING GULLLOTINE. I THINK HE CAUGHT A BAD SCENT.

PROBABLY YOUR [REDACTED]



WHOA, EASY, BOY. WHAT'S GOT YOU SO--



UH...BEN? YOU INVENTED ANYTHING RECENTLY THAT MIGHT GET US OUT OF SOME SUDDEN TROUBLE?

DEPENDS.



YOU WANT SOMETHING FIXED?

OR DO YOU WANT SOMETHING [REDACTED] UP?







OH,
NO NO
NO NO.



HANG ON,
KATE! TAKE
MY HAND!

CAN'T...
REACH!

YOU
CAN DO
IT, KATE!
OH...



"BEN!"