

The Princess Bride

WESLEY arrives on the scene, VIZZINI has PRINCESS BUTTERCUP blindfolded and held at knife point. A bottle of wine and two glasses are on the table.

V: So, it is down to you, and it is down to me.

Wesley approaches

V: If you wish her dead, by all means keep moving forward.

W: Let me explain.

V: There's nothing to explain. You're trying to kidnap what I've rightfully stolen.

W: Perhaps an arrangement can be reached?

V: There will be no arrangement, and you're killing her.

Vizzini pokes the knife into her neck.

W: Well if there can be no arrangement, then we are at an impasse.

V: I'm afraid so. I can't compete with you physically, and you're no match for my brains.

W: You're that smart?

V: Let me put it this way; have you ever heard of Plato? Aristotle? Socrates?

W: Yes.

V: Morons.

W: Really? In that case I challenge you to a battle of wits.

V: for the princess?

Wesley nods

V: to the death?

Wesley nods

V: I accept.

W: Good. Then pour the wine.

Vizzini puts away his knife. He pours the wine. Wesley pulls out the poison.

W: Inhale this, but do not touch.

V: I smell nothing.

W: What you do not smell is called Iocaine powder, it is odorless, tasteless, dissolves instantly in liquid, and is among the more deadly poisons known to man.

Vizzini hums, Wesley pours the poison into the glasses.

W: Alright, where is the poison? The battle of wits has begun. It ends when you decide and we both drink and find out who is right and who is dead.

V: But it's so simple. All I have to do is divine from what I know of you. Are you the sort of man who would put the poison into his own goblet or his enemy's? Now a clever man would put the poison into his own goblet because he would know that only a great fool would reach for what he is given. I am not a great fool so I can clearly not choose the wine in front of you. But you must've known I was not a great fool, you would've counted on it so I can clearly not choose the wine in front of me.

W: You've made your decision then?

V: Not remotely, because Iocaine comes from Australia, as everyone knows, and Australia is entirely filled with criminals, and criminals are not used to having...

V (CONT):

People not trust them as you are not trusted by me, so I can clearly not choose the wine in front of you.

W: Truly you have a dizzying intellect.

V: Wait till I get going! Where was I?

W: Australia.

V: Australia, yes. And you must've suspected I would have known the powders origin, so I can clearly not choose the wine in front of me.

W: You're just stalling now.

V: You'd like to think that wouldn't you! You've beaten my giant, which means you're exceptionally strong, so you could've put the poison in your own goblet trusting on your strength to save you so I can clearly not choose the wine in front of you. But you've also bested my Spaniard, which means you must've studied, and in studying you must've learned that man is mortal so you would've put the poison as far from yourself as possible so I can clearly not choose the wine in front of me.

W: You're trying to trick me into giving away something. It won't work.

V: It has worked! You've given everything away! I know where the poison is!

W: Then make your choice.

V: I will, and I choose... what in the world can that be?

Vizzini points off, distracting Wesley as he switches the glasses

W: What, Where?... I don't see anything.

V: Oh, I could've sworn I saw something. No matter.
Hehe

W: What's so funny?

V: I'll tell you in a minute. First, let's drink. Me from my glass, and you from yours.

They drink.

W: Guessed wrong.

V: You only think I guessed wrong! That's what's so funny! I switched glasses when your back was turned! Haha you fool! You fell victim to one of the classic blunders. The most famous is never get involved in a land war in Asia; but only slightly less well known is this: Never go in against a Sicilian when death is on the line!

Vizzini laughs for a bit then dies. Wesley takes of the Princesses' blindfold.

P: Who are you?

W: I am no one to be trifled with. That is all you ever need to know.