

THE NIBELUNGEN

REEL ELEVEN

1101

VOLKER:

In Netherlands of old, a noble prince did dwell,  
glory and honor did he win. As minstrels all do  
tell. Though loving dear his land, he left behind  
its pleasure, and forth he boldly set, to seek the  
Nibelung treasure. The birds did speak to him,  
and Siegfried understood. "You have slain the  
dragon, bathe now in his blood. Your body thus  
protected, your skin a shield shall be, nor sword,  
nor spear shall pierce your invulnerability. Then,  
did Siegfried vanquish the dwarf king, Alberich.  
The treasure of the Nibelung thenceforth would be  
his. The magic ring of Wotan, Siegfried from there  
did take, and he set forth for Iceland, Queen Brun-  
hild to awake. For she had been condemned, in a  
long sleep to linger, 'til once again this ring was  
set upon her finger. And thus did Siegfried free  
Iceland's lovely queen. Who did in gratitude her  
heart to him bequeath.

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1102

BRUNHILD:

Please remain... Remain here, Siegfried!

SIEGFRIED:

I... I shall return.

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- 53 -

1103

KRIEMHILD: I've no need to ask who he is... It is he!

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1104

SIEGFRIED: I want to marry your sister.

GUNTHER: The sister of the king has not the right to wed 'till  
her brother marries. Be of good heart... I desire to  
be married, too. Plead my cause with Brunhild of  
Iceland.

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1105

BRUNHILD: Why do you plead for him? Are you a king's vassal?

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1106

GUNTHER: I greet you, Brunhild.

BRUNHILD: We are in Iceland, but Iceland's queen will wed only  
the man who can best her with stone, spear and sword.

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1107

VOLKER: Under the magic hood, did stalwart Siegfried hide.  
Invisible then he aided Gunther to win his bride.

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1108

SIEGFRIED: Fog and night, all alike.

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- 54 -

1109

BRUNHILD: Where's your vassal Siegfried? Has the fear of his king's death laid him low?

GUNTHER: He does not care to see a woman engage in conflict.  
Hhh hhh hhh hhhh hhh....

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1110

GUNTHER: It is a great joy to me to see you so willing to be my wife.

BRUNHILD: Your queen, yes, but never your wife.

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1111

BISHOP: I ask you, Princess Kriemhild, will you wed Siegfried von Xanten and promise to be his wife until death do you part?

KRIEMHILD: Yes.

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1112

BRUNHILD: Leave me alone!

GUNTHER: Ah no... no, it is love which brings me here... my great love for you will force you into my arms tonight!

BRUNHILD: You are not the strong king who bested me in battle. I was betrayed! The magic you used is a mystery to me. I am sure it was not your strength.

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- 55 -

1113

GUNTHER: Listen to me... Burgund has a queen, but Burgund's king has no wife. Brunhild is invincible as long as she wears her magic girdle.

SIEGFRIED: I am your friend. I shall aid you.

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1114

BRUNHILD: Hhh ah hhh ah hhhh...

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1115

KRIEMHILD: Hhh ah ...

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1115 Bis

HAGEN: By this sword of mine, I swear that I shall put to death anyone who betrays the king.

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1116

KRIEMHILD: And still you believe it was Gunther who bested you in fair struggle, and in the bridal bed?

BRUNHILD: You are lying! Stand aside and let your queen enter! I'll hear no more of your libels.

KRIEMHILD: You accuse me of libel? Look! Is this not your girdle? Siegfried stripped you of it, and gave it to me. You, my husband's lover! You shall follow at three paces!

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- 55 A -

1117

HAGEN: There be no spot of infamy, good queen, that cannot  
be erased with blood.

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1118

GUNTHER: Yes, but he's my brother-in-law, and he is invulner-  
able.

HAGEN: They say he has a weak spot where the linden leaf  
fell. We must find that spot.

GUNTHER: I am against this! Of course... Kriemhild could have  
learned where the spot is from Siegfried.

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1119

SIEGFRIED: Hhhhhhh hh hhhhh hhhhhhh hhhh ah ...

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1120

HAGEN: Siegfried von Xanten is dead!

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1121

KRIEMHILD: By my unborn child's life, in the sight of God,  
I swear that I shall not let Siegfried's death go  
unpunished. His murderer and all who are guilty  
shall know my vengeance!

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END OF REEL ELEVEN