

Braveheart

Story Beats By D. McClellan

1. Establishing shots of mountains in Scotland 1280 AD. Storyteller Voice Over narrative technique begins to tell the “true” tale of William Wallace, establishing first the opposition (the story villain) of England’s King Edward “Longshanks” and his tyrannical rule over Scotland. The townsfolk assemble for a meeting of talks and truce. Malcolm Wallace scolds young William for following his father and brother to McAndrews farmhouse where the meeting was supposed to take place. Wallace finds the Scottish farmers and nobles all hanged in McAndrews farm. Young William sees his best friend hanging from the ceiling and runs through the bodies in terror.
2. William dreams of his dead friend calling to him.
3. Malcolm Wallace organizes a rebellion of farmers to fight the English.
4. Malcolm prepares to leave but tells young William, who wants to go and fight, to stay home and watch after the farm – and that “it is our wits that make us men”.
5. William and his friend Hamish see two English guards ride by and pretend to fight them. William has deadly aim throwing rocks. Hamish, however is a born fighter.
6. William waits at the farm for his father’s return. He wakes up and does his chores. His father and brother are carried home dead.
7. William watches as their bodies are prepared for burial. He touches his father’s bloody body. At the funeral, William sees a young girl who gives him a flower. He cries as his brother and father are buried. A man rides up on a white horse, Uncle Argyle and introduces himself to William. He tells William, at dinner, that he is to come home with Argyle and learn to speak Latin. Argyle prays for his dead brother.
8. William dreams of his father telling him his “heart is free – have the courage to follow it”. He awakens at night to the bagpipes playing for his father. Argyle tells him that it was the same for them when their father was killed. William grabs Argyle’s sword. Argyle tells him to first learn to use his head before he will teach him to fight. Argyle and William leave the village in the morning.
9. LONDON – (VO Narration) – many years later – Longshanks eldest son is married to the King of France’s daughter. He appears however, to be gay.
10. Longshanks discusses Scotland with his generals. The new Princess steps in and Longshanks reluctantly invites her to stay and learn how to rule since his son seems uninterested. Longshanks instates *Prima Noctes* – to get Nobles to go into and rule Scotland. He will breed them out.
11. EDINBURGH – (VO Narration) – Robert the 17th Earl of Bruce – leading contender for the crown of Scotland – heads a discussion with the heads of the council about Longshanks instating *Prima Noctes*. They ask about the Bruce’s father – who secretly overlooks the group from high above the keep in his sick bed. Robert looks up and lies, telling the Nobles that his father’s affairs overseas keep him long overdue.
12. William returns home to his farm, a grown man, and breathes in the air.
13. William rides his horse to town where a wedding celebration is taking place. He sees Marron from across the crowd and walks over to her. Hamish goads him into a contest of wits – throwing a large stone, which William wins by outwitting him. William is reunited with his people, and best friend. He dances with a young girl. The English Noble rides in with his troops and claims the right of *Prima Noctes*. A fight

- breaks out and the Bride stops the violence going willingly with the Noble to save her husband from certain death. A sleazy English Guard eyes Marron.
14. William stares at his broken house in the rain. He rides to Marron's house and asks to speak to her. Marron defies her parents and hops on William's horse. They ride off.
 15. William and Marron flirt. William has been to Rome on a pilgrimage with his uncle. He will teach her to read. He speaks French as well as Latin. He takes her home at night – they are in love. William gives her the pressed flower she gave to him as a boy.
 16. William is rebuilding his house as the farmers come by and ask him to attend a secret meeting. William declines saying he wants to raise crops and a family. McClannock tells him if he stays out of the troubles then he may court his daughter.
 17. William and Marron run off at night to be together in secret. He tells her that he loves her and wants to marry her. They kiss.
 18. Marron and William ride off at night to get married in secret. Lusty looks and sweet love ensue, followed by doing it and doing it and doing it.
 19. Marron carries a basket of cabbage through the market as William makes goo goo eyes through the trees at her. The sleazy English guard watches them make plans to see each other tonight. William exits as the Guard walks over to help her carry her cabbage. She resists as more English guards surround Marron. She belts one in the mouth. The guard throws down her cabbage and sexually assaults her licking her face. She bites his cheek and he hits her. William saves Marron and defeats the three guards. He puts Marron on his horse and tells her to ride to the grove. William runs from the guards and smashes one in the face stealing his robes. Marron is hit off the horse and taken prisoner by the English.
 20. William arrives at the grove with his sword waiting for Marron.
 21. The English Lord denounces the day's lawlessness and kills Marron, slitting her throat.
 22. William rides to the village where English guards wait for him in slow motion. The English watch as William empty handedly gives himself up to the guards. As a guard takes his horse by the bridle, William pulls a weapon out from under his kilt and strikes him dead. A melee ensues. William kills three guards by himself and then the townsfolk join in with their garden tools. With rocks and sticks they defeat the English. Hamish's father is shot in the chest with an arrow. The farmers storm the fort and defeat the English. William cuts the throat of the English Lord taking back his wedding scarf.
 23. Marron is buried. He kisses her body. William kneels for forgiveness at her parent's feet.
 24. Night – William looks at Marron's scarf. Hamish father's wound is cauterized with a hot iron. The MacGregor clan arrives and joins the fight against the English.
 25. The rebel brigands run through the woods and over the hills.
 26. Wallace and his men casually enter an English stronghold dressed as English guards. They take over the fort. The man whose wife was taken by right of *Prima Noctes* kills the English Lord who screwed her. Wallace frees the English guards and tells them to go back to England and tell the King that Scotland is free. He burns the fort.
 27. ENGLAND – Longshank's gay son is giving an archery exhibition as Longshanks walks in and tells news of Wallace's rebellion. The King smacks his son for being

- flippant and tells him to quell the rebellion while he goes to press his stand in France. The Princess' French Maid reveals she hopes that the Prince goes to Scotland and is killed by Wallace.
28. English troops tear through a town of innocent Scots. Rebels lure the English riders to a dead end where Wallace and his men surround the English and mock them.
 29. Robert the Bruce tells his sick father that a rebellion has begun by a commoner named William Wallace. His father tells him to support the rebellion with their lands in the north while he will gain English confidence in the south. Bruce tells his diseased father that he is impressed with Wallace and his passion. His father tells him that the only reason that he has land and title is because the Seventeen Robert Bruce's before him didn't charge in to fight. He tells him to call a meeting of the Nobles "who are as rich in title and English land as they are in Scottish". His father tells him to admire Wallace: "uncompromising men are easy to admire" and that even a dog has courage – but that "it is the ability to compromise that makes a man noble. Give an ear to our Nobles. Knowing their mind is the key to the throne".
 30. Wallace and his rebels fight the English. Troops are organized.
 31. The French Maid tells the Princess that Scotland is in chaos and that when the King returns he will bury his son's new clothes. She tells her of Wallace' fight for his love and how he battled to avenge her death for "true love". Which the Queen wouldn't know.
 32. Wallace and the rebels eat and discuss the English cavalry which has never been defeated. William devises a way to defeat the English cavalry with long spears. Two volunteers come in and give themselves to Wallace. Steven, a crazy Irishman, asks if he will he get to kill the English. He sneaks a knife past the guards.
 33. William stalks a deer as Steven and the other new mercenary stalk him. Steven kills the other man who is secretly an assassin.
 34. Runners come back to the camp bringing news of the English Army at Stirling.
 35. STIRLING – a battlefield. Outnumbered three to one with the English having three hundred horses, the Scottish Nobles prepare to negotiate. A father and son farmer talk about the Nobles doing a deal and then heading home. The English troops mount on the battlefield. The father and son decide to walk off and tell the others to leave. The Nobles beg them to stay until they can do a deal. Wallace rides up with his men dressed in war paint and assesses the battlefield. Wallace tells the farmers that he is William Wallace and inspires his countrymen to stay. The English Lord agrees to offer the rowdy Scots the King's terms. Wallace rides out between Mornay, Lockland, and Cray – who are there to do a deal. Wallace threatens the King's Guard who reminds Wallace that no army in two centuries has ever beaten an army with heavy cavalry. Wallace instructs the Nobles to ride around the English and let them see it. Then flank them and attack from behind.
 36. BATTLE - The English archers strike first – with three rounds of arrows – from across the great battlefield. Lives are lost as arrows rain down. Wallace motions for the Nobles to move out and the English see them ride away. The English send the horses in to ride the Scots down – full attack. Wallace and his men hold til the last second and pull up the spears impaling the English horses and defeating the cavalry. The English watch in disbelief as he sends the infantry in to fight. And fight and fights and fight. Wallace is a great warrior and the English are systematically beaten.

The Scottish Nobles ride around and flank the English. Wallace kills the English Lord, tossing him off his horse and decapitating him as they win the battle and the last of the English retreat.

37. The Scottish Nobles knight Wallace. The Nobles argue amongst themselves as to who is the rightful heir to the Scottish throne. William is disgusted with the in-fighting and reveals that he will invade England in order to provide freedom to his people. Robert the Bruce speaks with Wallace and describes the political climate of their country. Wallace tells Bruce that men follow courage not titles – and if he would just lead the people to freedom that the country would follow and so would he.
38. YORK – prepares for Wallace's arrival.
39. Wallace sacks York – against all odds ramming the doors to the keep.
40. The King arrives to London as his son pines knowing that his ass is grass. His gay lover tells him to stand up to his father. Longshanks returns and informs his son that the entire northern army is annihilated and that his son had done nothing in his father's absence. They receive news that Wallace has sacked York and his nephew's head is delivered in a basket. The King kills his gay lover tossing him out the window for being insolent. His son attacks him for killing his lover and the King bitch slaps him around. The King suggests offering Wallace a truce to buy him off. He devises a plot to send the Princess.
41. Wallace dreams of Marron in the woods. She tells him it is time to wake up.
42. William meets with the Princess under banners of truce. He impresses her and her French Maiden by speaking Latin and French when the Consulate tells her in Latin that he is a lying savage. Wallace tells her that York was the staging point of every attack on Scotland and that Longshanks was far more savage than he ever was. She asks her staff to leave so they can talk together in private. She tells him that Longshanks desires peace and offers him a chest of gold. Wallace scoffs at this and tells her of Longshanks notion of peace when he was a boy and the innocent people were lured into a barn and hanged. She tells him that she knows about his wife and that he has suffered. Wallace tells her that he sees her strength in the Princess – and that one day she will be a Queen and must open her eyes. William Wallace will not be ruled and nor will any Scot while he lives. She departs for England.
43. The Princess returns to England and tells the King that Wallace waits for the him at York. The King reveals that he has sent conscripts out surrounding Wallace before she left and that her trip was a ruse.
44. William and his troops prepare to battle at York. The French Maiden of the Princess delivers a secret letter to Wallace revealing the attack.
45. Wallace and his men ride to see that the letter is true. The troops are gathering for battle. Steven reminds Wallace that the Irish are nothing to worry about since it is *HIS* island. Wallace orders Hamish to gather the Nobles at Edinburgh.
46. EDINBURGH – the Nobles gather and talk of negotiation as Wallace arrives asking for every soldier available to defeat the English. Bruce pleads with William to speak with him alone. Wallace pleads Bruce to help him finally defeat the English. Wallace plays the Bruce by telling him that he is the rightful leader of Scotland and that he must unite the clans to stand up to the English tyranny.

47. Bruce discusses his position with his decrepit father telling him that he gave Wallace his word. His father tells him it is hard to be a leader and that he must betray Wallace for Scotland.
48. FALKIRK – pre-dawn – Wallace’s men soak the battlefield with flammable oil. The troops gather for war as Wallace searches the ranks for Robert the Bruce, who is nowhere. The King sends in the Irish first to save money on arrows. The Irish join forces with the Scots as Steven predicted. Wallace sends a signal and flaming arrows are shot into the English cavalry igniting the ground beneath them. A full on attack ensues as Wallace and his men gain ground on the English troops. He flags Mornay and Lockland to ride the horses around but they leave the battlefield peacefully. Longshanks reveals that he paid them off. He orders the archers to fire into the melee to kill everyone – his troops as well as the Scots. He sends in the cavalry to finish the job and retires to await news of his victory. Wallace is hit with an arrow. He steals a horse and rides after the King. A masked man rides to protect the King and strikes Wallace off his horse. Wallace ambushes the man and pull off his helmet revealing Robert the Bruce. Wallace falls down brokenhearted and beaten as the Bruce puts him on a horse and sends him back to Steven away from the English guards. Bruce picks up Marron’s bloodstained cloth in the dirt.
49. At camp that night Wallace sits beaten and bloody. Hamish’s father dies.
50. The Bruce walks through the battlefield over the bodies of his countrymen that he betrayed and falls to his knees in disgust.
51. Bruce confronts his father about his betrayal. His father tells him that they must have alliance with England. His father tells him that all men betray – all lose heart. He tells his father that he will never be on the wrong side again.
52. Wallace – now a mythic dream figure –in blue green splattered war paint – rides into Mornay’s bedroom and kills him. He jumps the horse out the high tower window into the moat below to escape.
53. The Nobles sit around eating and discussing Wallace's assassination with The Bruce. Lochland falls from the ceiling, dead; his throat slit open.
54. MONTAGE: Wallace's legend grows through the countryside. He is compared to Moses.
55. The King, now very sick, hears of Wallace’s legend and tells his staff that they must kill him. Wallace is renown for his ability to smell an ambush – so the King decides to send the Princess citing that if she died then the King of France would become a useful ally. The French Maiden listens in.
56. Wallace and his men stand out in front of a hut where the English are waiting to ambush him under a banner of truce. Wallace sees the ambush and locks the men inside the hut where they are burned alive.
57. Wallace rides at night to see the Princess at a secret hut. He thanks her for the message. He reveals that this is the second time she has warned him of danger as she tells him of a second shipment of supplies coming in. They kiss and hold each other. They make love. At dawn under a tree he says goodbye with a kiss and rides off. The Princess holds her stomach.
58. MONTAGE - Robert the Bruce watches as his father slowly becomes more ill – the King of England is dying.

59. Craig and Mornay arrive as prisoners in Wallace's camp telling him to come to Edinburgh and unite the people behind him. He gives him Marron's cloth from Robert the Bruce as his pledge of faith.
60. Hamish and Steven agree that this is a trap and that William is blind. He tells Hamish that he wants freedom and that he has to take the chance. Wallace decides to go alone.
61. The Nobles wait for Wallace to arrive. Wallace arrives in Edinburgh alone and is ambushed by the English dressed up in Scots robes. The Bruce sticks up for Wallace and is hit, but is not to be harmed.
62. Bruce yells at his father for deceiving him – he renounces his father and tells him he is not a man and that he wants him to die. His father tells him that he finally knows what it means to hate – now he is ready to be a King. Bruce tells his father that his hate will die with him.
63. Wallace is held in English court where he is sentenced to death. He remains silent and is told that he will be purified by pain until he admits his crimes and swears allegiance to the King.
64. The Princess demands to see Wallace and blows past the prison guards. She begs Wallace to swear allegiance with the King and be granted mercy. She gives him a vial of poison to numb the pain. He takes it to appease her and they kiss. He spits it out after she leaves.
65. The Princess asks the king, now unable to speak on his deathbed, to show mercy with Wallace. When he does not she reveals to him that a child inside her is Wallace's and that his bloodline dies with him.
66. Wallace prays in his cell as the crowd gathers for his execution. He asks for the strength to die well.
67. Wallace is tied up and led through the crowd to the torture stand at the center of town. People throw rotten food at him as he is led to his execution. The torture devices are revealed and he is asked once again to beg forgiveness to receive a quick death. He remains silent. They rope him up and torture hi by hanging him from the neck.
68. The King lies dying in his deathbed. The Queen sits alone listening to the crowd's applause at the torture of Wallace.
69. Wallace grabs Marron's cloth in his hand and remains steadfast in his position. He is racked. He is then brought to the cutting station where he is eviscerated as the crowd cries out Mercy for him. He cries out for freedom in his dying breath. He sees Marron walk through the crowd as if in a dream smiling at him as the axe lops off his head and he drops her cloth.
70. Robert the Bruce stands on a battlefield with his countrymen. VO Narration – tells of Wallace's head being set on London Bridge and his arms and legs sent to the four corners of England as a warning. The Bruce holds in his hand Marron's cloth as he prepares to become King of Scotland. He stops and asks his countrymen to fight with him like they have with Wallace. The Bruce leads them into the battle as VO Narration reveals that in the year 1314 the Scots finally banded together and fought to win their freedom.