

The Executioner steps up, inspecting the edge of the axe with eye and finger. He grumbles something to his Assistant.

The Assistant hands him a whetstone. The Executioner gives the axe blade a few strokes with it, sharpening.

The Executioner returns the stone, steps back up to RAT, loosening his shoulders like a ball player at bat, winding up. He raises his axe high...

RAT screams...

The axe starts down...

An ARROW pierces the Executioner's hands, pinning them to the axe. The Executioner screeches in horror.

A SECOND ARROW splits the rope binding RAT to the iron ring. RAT yanks at the split rope, scrambles to his feet--

RAT (cont'd)  
You goddamned bastard son of a...

EXT. LYON - CATHEDRAL BELL TOWER

CANTERBURY gallops out from behind the scaffolding at the Bell Tower, tucking his bow away.

EXT. LYON - CATHEDRAL SQUARE

RAT sees him.

RAT  
You vermin! You dog! You mudsucker!

CANTERBURY extends a hand, riding by. RAT leaps on. They gallop for the end of town.

Two dozen Horsemen, waving spears and swords, give chase.

EXT. LYON - ROAD - DAY

Over distant mountain peaks, a storm roils.

An enclosed Wagon with a red Crusader Cross painted on it rattles toward the mountains. Overhead, lightning flashes.

EXT. ALPINE ROAD - DAY

CANTERBURY and RAT ride double, CANTERBURY negotiating the horse at high speed along narrow paths, RAT clinging to his well-stuffed moneybag. Sleet is turning to snow.