

Godiva

Men have a talent for invention.
With a simple stroke of a quill,
they redact, revise, mischaracterize.
I have lived a thousand years
in the written thoughts of men.
A thousand years.
Not as flesh but as myth.

[ruefully]

No one remembers the 'why.'
The 'how.'
Even the 'who.'
All they recall:
Lady Godiva naked on a horse.
Lady Godiva naked...and chocolate.

[with frustration]

Is it worse to be forgotten than to be misremembered?
I am tired of the stories.
How they linger on my hair, my sex, my skin.
I am Godiva.
Not a victim or a fool.
Or a vessel for men's desire.
Just a woman who made a choice.

...

My husband was greedy.
Always demanding more tax.
Even when the people would starve.
I pleaded.
Persisted.
Until he finally broke.
"I will lower the tax,
when *you* ride naked through the town."
He thought to weaken my resolve.
As if he didn't know me at all.
But I stripped off my robe.
Unbound my hair.
Veiled my body in sunlight.
And rode my horse through the square.
I reveled in my gown of sun.
Then turned for home.

...

Forget the stories you've read.
The legend you've heard.
Remember *this* Godiva.
Not the myth...but me.

—Caitlin Vincent

For Kitty Whately, who has sung my songs so very beautifully, with admiration and affection

Godiva

Monodrama for Soprano or Mezzo-Soprano and Piano

Caitlin Vincent

Juliana Hall (ASCAP)

Resolutely (♩ = 76)

Resolutely (♩ = 76)

f

8^{vb}

4 *mp*

Men have a tal - ent for in -

mp

6

ven - tion.

Words: © Copyright 2019 by Caitlin Vincent. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Music: © Copyright 2020 by E. C. Schirmer Music Company, Inc.,
a division of ECS Publishing Group. www.ecspublishing.com
All rights reserved.

8 *mp* *mf*

With a sim - ple stroke of a quill,

mp *mf*

10 ♩ = 88 *mp* *poco rit.*

they re - dact, re - vise,

♩ = 88 *poco rit.*

p

12 ♩ = 63 *mp* *mf*

mis - char - ac - ter - ize. I have lived a thou - sand years

♩ = 63 *mp* *mf*

14 *f* *mf*

in the writ-ten thoughts of men. A thou - sand

f *mf*

8^{vb} Ped.

16 *f* *p*

years.

f *p*

8^{vb} Ped.

18 *mp*

Not as flesh but as

mp *p*

20 *Ruefully* (♩ = 76)

myth.

Ruefully (♩ = 76)

mp

22 *mf* *f* *mf*

No one re - mem - bers the 'why.' The

24

'how.'

mp

40 *mf*

and choc - - - - - o -

mp *mf*

42 *f* **With frustration** (♩ = 63)

late.

f *mp*

Ped.

44 *mf*

Is it worse to be for - got - ten than to be

mf

59 *f* *mp*

fool. Or a

61

ves - sel for men's de - sire.

63 *mp*

Just a wom - an who made a

mp

Ped.

79 *mp* *poco rit.* *pp*

mp *poco rit.* *pp*

81 *f* $\text{♩} = 72$

I plead

$\text{♩} = 72$

mp *f*

83 *ff* $\text{♩} = 104$ *f*

ed. Persist

$\text{♩} = 104$

ff *mf*

93

tax, when you ride — na-ked through the

8va

95 *mf*

town."

(8va)

mf *mp*

97 *mf* *f*

He thought to weak - en my re - solve.

mf *f*

99 *mp*

As if he did - n't know me at all.

102 ♩ = 104 *mp*

But I stripped off my

104 *mf* *mp*

robe. Un - - - bound my

112 *f*

square. _____ I

f

8^{va}

Ped.

114

rev - - - eled in my gown _____ of

gliss.

(8^{va})

Ped.

116 *ff*

sun. _____

ff

Ped.

138

mf

Musical score for measures 138-139. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with a rest, followed by the lyrics "but" and "me." The piano accompaniment (grand staff) features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *mp* and *mf*. A "Ped." marking is present in the bass line of measure 139.

140

f

Musical score for measures 140-141. The vocal line (treble clef) starts with a half note followed by a rest. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) continues with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *f* and *mp*. "Ped." markings are present in the bass line of both measures.

142 ♩ = 104

Musical score for measures 142-143. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) features a rhythmic pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *p*, *mp*, *mf*, and *f*.

144 *mf* *ff* = 56 *Ped.*

146 *f*

148 *ff* *fff* *Ped.* *8^{vb}* *Ped.*