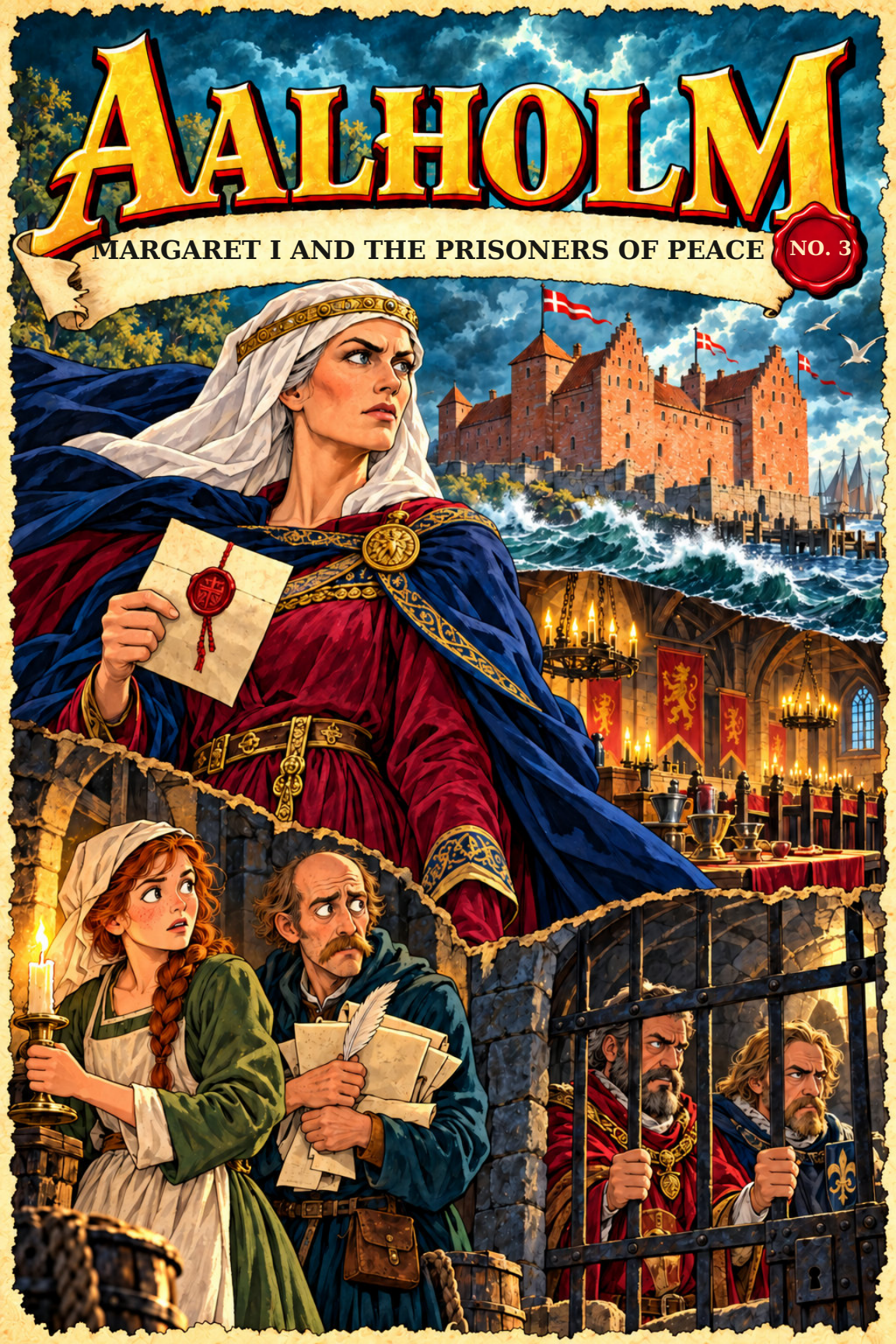

AALHOLM
MARGARET I AND THE PRISONERS OF PEACE
NO. 3

The Empty Chair



A King Becomes a Prisoner





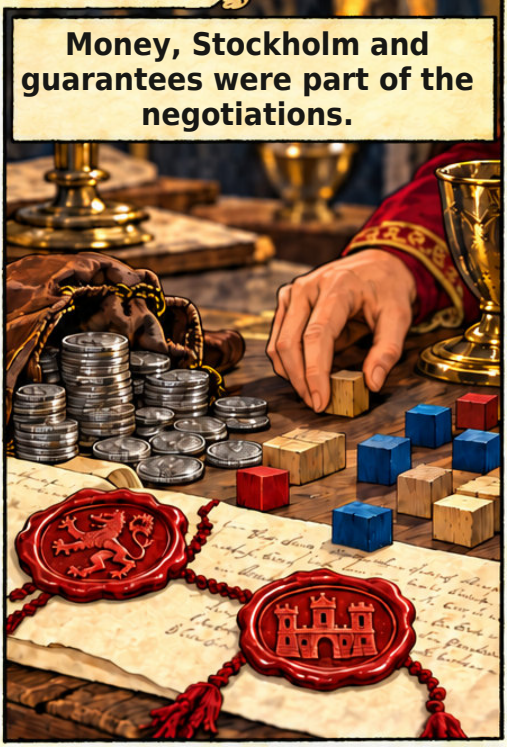





Her Price
Helsingborg, 1394.
They demand Albert's release.
Who answers for him once he is free?
We defeated him once.
With men who did not all come home.

An Agreement Must Hold










The Castle Waits
A little more to the left!
Come down and show us!
Aalholm, late summer 1394.
Princes and envoys are coming.
Here? Then we'd better hurry.

A Table for Enemies



The Duke's Choice




The envoys were equipped for the journey.
What's in it?
Letters.
It weighs as much as stones.
Stones are easier to agree on.
Trade needed peace at sea.


The trading town of Kampen would not come.
Too wintry. Too far away. And they won't give a guarantee.
Then we need fewer beds.
And fewer promises.
A bed we can build.


We could give more ground on the terms.
If they break their promises, what are we left with?
Their oath.
And a free king.
She had a prisoner. She did not yet have a secure peace.

The Road Is Blocked



Prisoners of Peace



All Saints' Day



The Empty Places




Grim news reaches Aalholm.
What has happened?
The envoys have been captured.
But they were supposed to get the others released.


The detention threatened the negotiations.
Now no one will travel without more guarantees.
Then we must work for their release.
Our enemies will call it weakness.
Let them call it what they like. I want to know our options.

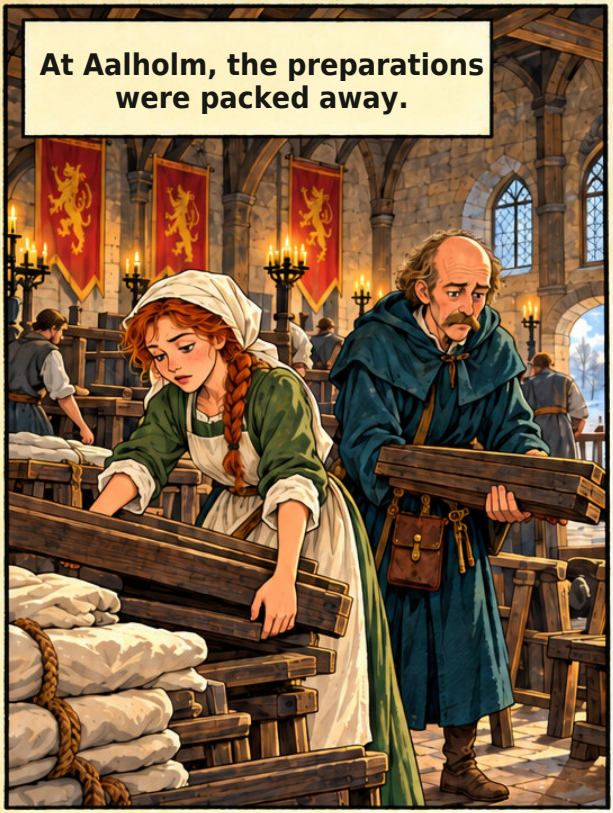
The Demand for Freedom










At Aalholm, the preparations were packed away.


Who was this one?
One of the envoys.


Do we know if he'll come home?
No.


Then I'll keep it. Otherwise it's as if there was never a place for him.


Margaret Continues
February 1395. Lübeck reports that the Aalholm meeting never took place.
New negotiations in April. At Falsterbo and Skanör.
After all that work.
Fetch the terms. And the names of those we must contact.
She had lost the road to an agreement. She sought another.

The Gate Opens



Behind the Story

AALHOLM 3 - Margaret I and the Prisoners of Peace

The historical basis

Margaret lost her son Oluf in 1387. Her forces defeated Albert of Mecklenburg at Åsle in 1389, and he and his son were captured.

Aalholm, 1394

A meeting with Margaret, princes and envoys was planned for 1 November. Journeys were prepared, but some envoys were detained. On 11 November, the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order demanded his men's release.

The meeting did not take place

On 17 February 1395, Lübeck reported that the Aalholm meeting had not taken place. New negotiations were to be held at Falsterbo and Skanör. Albert was released under conditions in 1395. Margaret gained control of Stockholm in 1398.

What we have dramatised

All dialogue is invented. Asta and the clerk Peder are fictional, as are their experiences, the messenger's arrival and the detailed scenes. The sources do not prove that Margaret personally reached Aalholm in 1394. The castle's rooms, costumes and buildings are artistic reconstructions.

Sources - Diplomatarium Danicum and Lex

DD IV:5, no. 254 - the meeting plan, August 1394

DD IV:5, no. 281 - the envoys, 11 November 1394

DD IV:5, no. 331 - the meeting abandoned, 17 February 1395

Lex: Margaret I and Albert of Mecklenburg