

THE MIRROR AND THE LIGHT

EPISODE 5

Screenplay by

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Based on the novel by

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Episode 5 – 26th November 2024

1 OMITTED

1*

INT. CROMWELL'S STUDY, AUSTIN FRIARS - NIGHT

Wriothesley paces up and down. Cromwell sits at his desk, deep in thought.

GARDINER (V.O.)
So who was the murderer?WRIOTHESELEY (V.O.)
You are seriously accusing Lord
Cromwell?NORFOLK
He was no lord in those days.

INT. GREAT HALL, LAMBETH PALACE - NIGHT. FLASHBACK

Cranmer's dinner is in progress.

NORFOLK
Do you know what I think? We're better off without cardinals and proud old prelates such as we used to have. Now the archbishop here at least he conducts himself humble-wise. You can tell by his countenance that he spends his time at prayer, instead of brow beating noblemen and plotting their downfall and wrangling and cheating and embezzling. All of which were daily proceedings with Cardinal Thomas Wolsey.CROMWELL
My lord Norfolk your-NORFOLK
(over)
Yes, and promoting false knaves to positions of trust, soliciting bribes, falsifying deeds, bullying his betters, consorting with conjurers and generally thieving, lying and cheating all to the detriment and ruin of the commonweal and the shame of the King.

Cromwell jumps up and pulls Norfolk up, shaking him. Norfolk chokes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CRANMER
For shame, Thomas! He's an old man!

Cromwell pushes Norfolk back into his seat.

INT. CROMWELL'S NEW STUDY, AUSTIN FRIARS - NIGHT

Cromwell sits at his desk in thought.

2 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER, HAMPTON COURT PALACE - DAY

2

OPEN WIDE on the Council Chamber at Hampton Court Palace. Cromwell waits with Holbein and the other COUNCILLORS. At the head of the room, by the King's Canopy of State, FIND a painting on a stand, covered by a cloth.

The King enters, with Rafe. Holbein and the councillors bow. Henry observes the shrouded painting.

Cromwell steps forward, unveils the painting. REVEAL Holbein's famous portrait of 'Anne of Cleves', arrayed in a golden frame.

CROMWELL
Anne of Cleves, Majesty.

Henry steps forward, scrutinises the painting. His eyes travel from Anne's middle upwards to her face.

HENRY
Hmm. And this is as she stood before you?

HOLBEIN
(Eh yes, obviously)
Yes. As she is.

Finally, a faint smile from the King. He turns, addresses Norfolk - who is looking seriously unimpressed.

HENRY
Look, my lord Norfolk. Is she not well and seemly?

Norfolk gives a noncommittal grunt.

HENRY (CONT'D)
Tell me about her.

Holbein looks to Cromwell, confused. He has said all he wishes to say in the painting.

HOLBEIN
Hmm. I believe she speaks no language but her own.

(CONTINUED)

Reaction in the room. This is unexpected.

FITZWILLIAM
(Concerned)
Not even French?

Awkward silence.

HENRY
Well our envoys say she has a good wit, and I am sure she will learn our tongue as soon as she puts her mind to it.

(beat)
And of course, we will be able to make music together. If she does not know the words to English songs, I am sure she will know them in other tongues.

CROMWELL
(Carefully)
In Germany, I understand, great ladies do not have music masters, sir. A lady there would lose her good name by singing or dancing.

Henry's face falls.

HENRY
Oh. Then what will we do after supper?

NORFOLK
Drink? They are great drinkers, the Germans. They are known for it.

Cromwell shoots Norfolk a cold look.

CROMWELL
They say the same of the English.

HENRY
My wife and I will hunt. We will enjoy the pleasures of the chase together.

He takes in Cromwell's carefully arranged expression.

HENRY (CONT'D)
What?

CROMWELL
I believe she rides. I am not sure she shoots.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

HENRY

They don't hunt either? What do they do all day, sew?

CROMWELL

And pray.

NORFOLK

(A cackle)

By God, she'll be grateful to you, taking her out of that place.

Henry considers that, seeing things in a new light.

HENRY

Yes. She will. Her life must have been a trial, bless her. She will find our ideas quite different.

3 INT. KING'S PRESENCE CHAMBER, HAMPTON COURT PALACE - DAY 3

TRACK with Cromwell, away through the Presence Chamber with Fitzwilliam. Cromwell is quietly furious. Fitzwilliam glances at him, noticing.

COUNCILLOR 1 (B/G)

I think they'll make a good match, do you not?

COUNCILLOR 2 (B/G)

Yes, I think...

COUNCILLOR 1 (B/G)

Excellent choice. Excellent choice.

Then, on a NOISE from behind, Cromwell stops, turns.

NORFOLK (O.S.)

Cromwell!

FITZWILLIAM

Come, my lords. This will not do. Shake hands like Christian men.

Cromwell turns. Norfolk is approaching. He comes to a halt in front of Cromwell. An awkward impasse. Eventually, Norfolk extends his hand, his look icy. Cromwell follows suit and they shake hands briefly. Then:

NORFOLK

On the subject of Christians, your man, Riche - 'Chancellor of Augmentations', he calls himself - says that Thetford Priory will go down.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

3

CONTINUED:

3

NORFOLK (CONT'D)

It will not go down, sir, because the priests of the Priory pray for the souls of my ancestors, who are buried there. And they will pray for them, as long as this world endures. I want that understood. Tell him, will you?

Cromwell considers.

CROMWELL

As long as this world endures.
That's a lot of prayers, my lord.
That's a lot of prayers.

Norfolk doesn't like this equivocal response. The hostility between them is palpable.

4

INT. LONG GALLERY, HAMPTON COURT - NIGHT

4

Henry is signing the marriage articles in front of the CLEVES DELEGATION. Norfolk and Gardiner are there. They don't look happy. *

Henry takes out a RING, holds it to the glow of the candle, examining it - then lays it in the palm of HENRY OLISLEGER, Vice-Chancellor of Cleves and ambassador to England. Olisleger bows low.

OLISLEGER

(German accent)

It will be conveyed to the Lady Anna by the straightest route, Your Majesty. She has already begun her journey to London.

Henry acknowledges regally, hands Rafe the pen. It's done. Olisleger and his party leave, clutching the document.

Henry beckons Cromwell.

HENRY

Her cousin.

ON Cromwell, trying to work out who Henry is talking about.

CROMWELL

The Duke of Bavaria.

HENRY

It appears to me that our friendship with the German states might be further strengthened if we made a match between him and Mary.

Cromwell doesn't respond. He hadn't seen this coming.

(CONTINUED)

HENRY (CONT'D)

If I have to sacrifice myself for England, cannot my daughter? If I am to breed for the nation, why cannot she?

Cromwell acknowledges.

LEAD the sound of a VIRGINAL being played.

INT. OUTER ROOMS/MARY'S PRIVY CHAMBER, HAMPTON COURT - DAY

Virginal playing continues. TRACK with Cromwell through outer rooms, into Mary's privy chamber at Hampton Court.

Mary is playing the virginal, her back to Cromwell. She plays well. One of her LADIES whispers something to her.

LADY-IN-WAITING

(to Mary)

My lady. Lord Cromwell is here.

Mary stops playing, turns. It feels like an intrusion on a private moment. Eventually, she stands. Cromwell bows.

CROMWELL

Duke Philip of Bavaria, my lady.
The King would like you to meet
him.

MARY

With a view to what?

Cromwell looks across to Mary's ladies, indicates that they should step further away. They do so.

CROMWELL

With a view to marriage.

Cromwell approaches.

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

Duke Philip is a well-made man.
Fair, dark eyes. Not unlike your lady mother's colouring.

MARY

That does not weigh.

CROMWELL

And he's no Lutheran. Don't let anyone tell you he is.

MARY

I never let anybody tell me anything, my lord.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

Cromwell moves a little closer.

CROMWELL

What we can't have is any late retraction. You say yes you'll meet him and then, at the last minute, you say no. That would embarrass the King.

MARY

Yes. No.

(Then)

Yes, it would leave him embarrassed. No, I would not do it. I have sworn to be obedient, as you so often remind me.

CROMWELL

(Gentler)

Well, the King is a tender father. He would never force you into a marriage with a man you cannot love.

MARY

(Hard)

He forced my cousin Meg Douglas out of marriage to a man she swore she would die for.

CROMWELL

Philip has told the King he will make no demands. He takes you for friendship's sake, to further the alliance.

Mary considers.

MARY

Does he speak English?

CROMWELL

Only German. Others will interpret.

A beat pause. Eventually, Mary dips her head in assent.

6 EXT. GARDEN, ABBOT OF WESTMINSTER'S RESIDENCE - DAY

6

OPEN on CROMWELL'S LONG-LENS POV: Mary seated with DUKE PHILIP OF BAVARIA (36) in an elegant garden. An INTERPRETER stands close by. As the Duke speaks, (INAUDIBLY), the interpreter translates. Mary's responses, (also INAUDIBLE), are brief and demure, her eyes cast down.

FIND Cromwell, observing from some way off.

(CONTINUED)

Philip presents to Mary an ornate box.

INTERPRETER (B/G)
(to Mary)
A gift of gold.

DUKE PHILIP (B/G)
(to Mary, un-subtitled)
Ein Erbstück meiner Familie.
Ich weib um einen starken Glauben
und hoffe, dass es euch gefällt.

Philip takes out a pear studded cross.

DUKE PHILIP (B/G) (CONT'D)
(to Mary, un-subtitled)
Es scheint mir eur Schönheit
angemessen.

Philip leans forward and kisses Mary gently on the cheek.
She colours, looks away, then looks back at him without
protest.

ON Cromwell, exploring how he feels about this.

HENRY (V.O.)
She permitted it?

CROMWELL (V.O.)
She did.

FIND Cromwell seated in Council with the King. As usual,
Rafe is nearby.

SUFFOLK
Which is a good sign, by God. She
never permitted any of us to kiss
her.

HENRY
You have not the rank.
(Then)
I am assured by Cromwell that she
will be conformable. He always
gives me that assurance, yet
nothing ever comes of it.

Attention shifts to Cromwell.

CROMWELL
Lady Mary will do as you command,
sire. She has given me that
assurance.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

But, in Europe, they are claiming
the marriage is made against her
will.

HENRY

They think I would enforce her?

CROMWELL

Yes. I just... I wonder if it is
wise to let her leave the kingdom,
sire. The Emperor continues to
threaten the Duke's rule. If the
Duke should fall...

(Then)

Mary will always be a rallying
point for your enemies.

NORFOLK

(Cutting in)

You see, your majesty? Your
daughter will never marry.
Cromwell breaks every match
proposed for her. I wonder why?

Confusion in the Council. Henry stares at Cromwell, his
expression dark, unfathomable.

8 OMITTED

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9 OMITTED

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10 OMITTED

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11 OMITTED

11

12 INT. GREAT HALL, AUSTIN FRIARS - DAY

12

Cromwell serves himself a generous portion of devilled
kidneys and sausages from a board adjacent to the dining
table. Crisp, cold light shafts in from the windows,
reflecting off the white table linen.

CROMWELL

I am bringing Anne of Cleves
overland to Calais. I want you
there with Fitzwilliam, when she
arrives, paying reverence on my
behalf.

FIND Gregory, sitting at the table eating breakfast with
Richard Cromwell and Wriothesley.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

GREGORY

In Calais? Am I to cross?

Cromwell turns, his plate laden.

CROMWELL

Hmmm-hmm. Write to me the minute you see her. Make sure she knows who you are. Be kind. Be patient, Gregory. Make sure she has the things she likes to eat.

He sits, tucks into his breakfast.

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

She'll want ready money. I'll give you a purse of fifty sovereigns. And do not embark for home without checking that all of her train's debts are paid. I want Anna looking to us for anything she needs - company-

Wriothesley stands suddenly, rattling the tableware.

WRIOTHESELEY

(Over)

Excuse me. My um... head aches.

A surprised silence. Wriothesley bows briefly, walks out leaving his breakfast half-eaten. Cromwell exchanges a look with Richard Cromwell.

CROMWELL

What's that?

GREGORY

He's jealous. He wishes you would send him to Calais, not me.

RICHARD CROMWELL

Why would you? He's an idiot.

GREGORY

(Thinking it through)

No... He's like a son. He's anxious to please you. Give him a kind word, Father.

ON Cromwell, surprised by Gregory's sagacity.

13

INT. KING'S OUTER/INNER PRIVY CHAMBER, HAMPTON COURT - DAY

13

TRACK with Cromwell through to the King's inner privy chamber. Rafe indicates the far corner.

(CONTINUED)

Henry is seated, reading by the fading light of a window, almost lost in shadow. Cromwell watches, trying to determine the King's mood. Finally, Henry lowers the document. Cromwell bows.

HENRY

This pretended alliance between France and the Emperor. Neither man dare turn his back on the other. It is not friendship but its opposite.

CROMWELL

All the same, their league has endured longer than we could imagine.

Cromwell gives Henry a long look - so much that could be said.

HENRY

We have few friends in either court. You especially. You have few friends, Cromwell.

CROMWELL

If my services incurred their malice, I count it well. It was done for Your Majesty's sake.

HENRY

Are you sure about that? I think it is because of what you are. They don't know how to deal with you.

CROMWELL

Likely not. Your Majesty must realise, they want me displaced so that you and your kingdom may be the worse advised. That is why they poison your mind against me.

HENRY

So... you would recommend, if I hear you have exceeded your office, or that you have slacked my instructions or reversed them, that I should ignore the rumour?

ON Cromwell. Where's this coming from?

CROMWELL

I would recommend you talk to me before you believe anything.

Henry doesn't respond. He shifts in the shadows, restless. Cromwell waits. Here it comes.

13

CONTINUED:

13

HENRY

It is a long time now since I first saw you, Tom.

CROMWELL

It is. More than ten years, sire.

HENRY

Is it? I remember our first interview. Suffolk did not know what to make of you.

CROMWELL

Hmm.

HENRY

I knew, though. I saw your sharp little eyes. You told me not to go to war. Never fight, you said, you can't afford it. Skulk indoors like a sick child - it will be good for the treasury. And I thought to myself... by Saint Loy, this man has some stomach. He has some gall.

CROMWELL

I trust I did not offend.

HENRY

You did. I overlooked it. As a ruler sometimes must.

(Then)

I am greatly altered these ten years. You, not so much. You no longer surprise me like once you did. I do not think you will surprise me again, considering all that you have said and done - some of it miraculous, I will not deny, Tom. You have worked beyond the capacities of ten ordinary men. But still I miss the Cardinal of York. Still I miss Thomas Wolsey.

Cromwell is silent. Henry shifts again, turning further away, his face hidden in shadow.

14

INT. KING'S OUTER PRIVY CHAMBER, HAMPTON COURT - DAY

14

Cromwell emerges from the inner privy chamber. He leans against the wall, breathing hard - his mind racing. What just happened? Rafe appears, following him out of the inner chamber.

(CONTINUED)

14

CONTINUED:

14

CROMWELL

(Cheerfully)

I am bested by the Cardinal's
ghost.

Before Rafe can respond, his gaze shifts. Cromwell follows the look to find Wriothesley, watching from the shadows. Eventually, Cromwell turns - walks off. HOLD ON Wriothesley, staring after Cromwell, his expression impossible to read.

15

OMITTED

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OMITTED

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OMITTED

17

18

INT. LONG GALLERY, HAMPTON COURT PALACE - DAY

18

TRACK with Cromwell into the Long Gallery at Hampton Court Palace. The prospective new Queen's MAIDS-OF-HONOUR are there, all having their matching white attire adjusted by FEMALE SERVANTS.

MAID-OF-HONOUR 1 (B/G)

That is beautiful.

MAID-OF-HONOUR 2 (B/G)

Thank you.

Cromwell has blundered into a noisy dress-fitting. He turns to leave.

LADY ROCHFORD (O.C.)

How do you like the new Queen's
Maids-of-Honour?

Cromwell turns back. Jane Rochford is there.

MAID-OF-HONOUR 3 (B/G)

This gown's beautiful.

CROMWELL

They seem very young.

LADY ROCHFORD

Oh, that's you, getting older. The
Maids are the usual age.

Norfolk appears with a woman on his arm. This is CATHERINE HOWARD. She is young and strikingly pretty, though with a vacant expression. She looks around her in excited awe, chattering away inaudibly to Norfolk.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

For his part Norfolk, who declaredly has little time for women, appears very pleased with her.

CROMWELL

Who's that?

NORFOLK (B/G)

(to Catherine Howard)

Here we are.

LADY ROCHFORD

Catherine Howard, Norfolk's niece.

CATHERINE HOWARD (B/G)

(to Norfolk)

My goodness.

LADY ROCHFORD

Succulent little thing.

CATHERINE HOWARD (B/G)

(to Norfolk)

They look quite beautiful.

CROMWELL

I think we've had enough of Norfolk's nieces.

LADY ROCHFORD

Well, I sent her back because she looks twelve. But they swear she is of sufficient age, and here she is again.

Catherine is pulling impatiently at Norfolk's arm, trying to regain his attention...

LADY ROCHFORD (O.C.) (CONT'D)

A simpler maid I never saw. Her mouth's always hanging open.

NORFOLK (B/G)

(to Catherine Howard)

Yes, very, very beautiful. Like you do.

...but Norfolk keeps craning round, watching for the King's arrival.

LADY ROCHFORD

But she has no mother, bless her. She was but an infant when her mother died.

CROMWELL

(to Lady Rochford)

A soft word, my lady.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

CATHERINE HOWARD (B/G)

(to Norfolk)

Why are they called Maids-of-Honour?

LADY ROCHFORD

(to Cromwell)

I'm not a monster, my lord. I wonder who paid for what's on her back? That cloth did not come from the old dowager's wardrobe.

NORFOLK (B/G)

(to Catherine Howard)

They form an escort.

LADY ROCHFORD

(to Cromwell)

And those rubies - did they not once belong to Anne Boleyn.

Cromwell reacts.

LADY ROCHFORD (CONT'D)

That got your attention.

CROMWELL

Send her away.

LADY ROCHFORD

Again? What shall I say to the Howards?

CROMWELL

Say what you like. Just make sure she doesn't show her face here again until the King is safely married.

Wriothesley appears, looking alarmed.

WRIOTHESELEY

Sir...

Cromwell turns, what now? He follows Wriothesley out.

19 INT. KING'S OUTER/INNER PRIVY CHAMBER, HAMPTON COURT - DAY 19

TRACK with Cromwell and Wriothesley as they hurry into the King's Inner Privy Chamber at Hampton Court. Henry is examining clothes in a trunk.

(CONTINUED)

HENRY

(Cheerfully)

My lord, I have decided to make speed to Rochester and meet the bride in my own person.

A beat as Cromwell contains himself.

CROMWELL

Why, sir? It will only be a day or two before she arrives.

HENRY

I want to nourish love.

A beat as Cromwell and Wriothesley consider the best approach.

WRIOTHESELEY

Your Majesty, with all respect, was this not aired in Council? It was your Councillors' earnest prayer that Your Majesty spare himself the journey, and that you greet the Queen in London. And you were pleased to accede.

HENRY

(Darkening)

Can I not change my mind, Wriothesley? In London there will be music and ordnance and we shall not speak a dozen private words to one another before we must ride back. And then it will be hours before we have a chance to be alone. No. I want to surprise her, and gladden her heart, and bid her a proper welcome.

CROMWELL

If you will be advised by me, sir-

HENRY

(Over)

But I will not. You have many strengths, Crumb, but you are no adept in courtship.

Henry moves round the room to another set of trunks. Cromwell and Wriothesley follow, searching for a new tack.

CROMWELL

She will hardly be off the ship, sir. Think how shamed she will be, if she cannot appear at her best.

19

CONTINUED:

19

WRIOTHESELEY

And she may, of course, be overwhelmed by your majesty's presence.

HENRY

That is why I must go! I will spare her anxiety. She will be working herself up towards great ceremonies.

He smiles, pulls a costume from the trunk.

HENRY (CONT'D)

I will go in disguise.

Cromwell closes his eyes.

HENRY (CONT'D)

It is what a king does. You cannot know, Cromwell, you are not a courtier born. I know it is not what we agreed, my lord, but a bridegroom must have his caprices and disguising always brings pleasure. The dowager, Katherine, she would pretend she not know me. Of course, she did but play with me because everybody knows the King.

WRIOTHESELEY

May I ask, what disguise does your majesty mean to adopt?

Henry holds up a possible option.

HENRY

A Russian nobleman, in great fur boots.

(Off their expressions)

A shepherd, then? Or perhaps one of the Magi?

CROMWELL

Perhaps, sir, just... go as a gentleman?

Henry considers.

HENRY

A gentleman? Of England. A gentleman with no name.

(Then)

Yes, very well, I shall be ruled by Lord Cromwell.

(Softly)

As all the foreigners claim I am.

20 INT. KING'S OUTER PRIVY CHAMBER, HAMPTON COURT PALACE - DAY 20
 TRACK with Cromwell and Wriothesley, back out into the Outer Privy Chamber.

CROMWELL
 Christ!

WRIOTHESELEY
 Well, we did what we could. You are afraid that he will find her not as reported? Because for sure, she will find him not as reported.

Cromwell stops, draws Wriothesley close.

CROMWELL
 That's what her people have prepared her for. In Cleves they know nothing of this sort of childish carry-on. Make speed to Rochester, 'Call-Me'. Warn her the King will come on the river with a small train - no heralds, no ceremony - Anna must be ready. He will enter her chamber, she must appear astonished and... and delighted.

Wriothesley acknowledges the assignment. They walk on.

WRIOTHESELEY
 Well, it could be worse. At least he's not going to wear his Turkish costume.

21 INT. SITTING ROOM, AUSTIN FRIARS - NIGHT 21
 OPEN on a blazing fire, burning in a grate. FIND Cromwell, sitting reading, with Bella the dog in his lap. His mind wanders:

HENRY (V.O.)
 I am greatly altered these ten years. You, not so much...

22 OMITTED 22

23 OMITTED 23

24 INT. KING'S INNER PRIVY CHAMBER, HAMPTON COURT PALACE - DAY 24
 FLASHBACK - Episode 205 Scene 13: Cromwell and Henry.

(CONTINUED)

24

CONTINUED:

24

HENRY

...You no longer surprise me as
once you did. I do not think you
will surprise me again...

25

INT. SITTING ROOM, AUSTIN FRIARS - NIGHT

25

THE PRESENT: ON Cromwell, trying to understand. How has this
happened? What was his mis-step?

Bella starts barking, jumps from his lap and rushes out.
MOVE IN on Cromwell as he listens to a GROWING COMMOTION from
below.

MAN (O.S.)

Calm down, boy!

He knows something bad is happening but he is somehow unable
to move from the chair. He sets aside the document he has
been reading, takes a drink of wine, waiting for the
inevitable. Eventually, footsteps on the stair:

CROMWELL

Gregory. What are you doing here?

He looks round just as Gregory enters.

GREGORY

Henry is on his way back from
Rochester.

CROMWELL

And Wriothesley, had he warned
Anne? Was she ready?

GREGORY

She was warned. She was not ready.
Why didn't you stop him from going,
Father? You're his Councillor.

Cromwell's heart sinks.

CROMWELL

Sit. Tell me.

Gregory sits down in the chair opposite his father.

GREGORY

The King came in - masked, dressed
in some outlandish costume - but
she was looking out of the window.
They were baiting a bull in the
courtyard and she cast a glance
over her shoulder and then turned
back to the sport.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

GREGORY (CONT'D)

I suppose she didn't believe a
prince would come in secret.

Gregory takes a gulp of wine.

GREGORY (CONT'D)

The king bowed low and addressed
her and still she didn't turn. I
think she took him for... I don't
know what, but he stood there with
his hat in his hand - he seemed
uncertain how to proceed, until her
people swarmed in and alerted her,
and then she turned and she
realised who he was.

Gregory is silent for a beat, lost in the horror of the
memory.

GREGORY (CONT'D)

As Christ is my Saviour, Father,
the look in her eye. I will never
forget it. Nor, I think, will the
King.

(Then)

She recoiled from him. He could
not miss it. Did you tell her he
was old?

Cromwell stares into the fire. *Wreckage*.

ON Gregory. He looks exhausted, lit by little more than
firelight.

GREGORY (CONT'D)

Fitzwilliam says she is as good a
woman as we will find in Europe.
But I don't see how she will undo
that first moment.

ON Cromwell, trying to take in the full significance of what
has occurred.

26 OMITTED

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27 OMITTED

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28 OMITTED

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29 OMITTED

29

30 OMITTED

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31 OMITTED

31

32 OMITTED

32

33 EXT. COURTYARD, HAMPTON COURT PALACE - DAY

33

TRACK with Cromwell out into the courtyard at Hampton Court. Rafe is there.

CROMWELL

And?

RAFE

He has said nothing.

TRACK ON with Cromwell, across the courtyard towards Henry, who is admiring a stunning black jennet with Fitzwilliam. LIVERIED GROOMS attend the King, steadying the unsaddled horse. Cromwell approaches.

MALE COURTIER (B/G)

(to Female Courtier)

Yes, but this beast is particularly handsome, wouldn't you say?

The King continues to examine the horse, then:

HENRY

Cromwell, we have not had the papers from Cleves about the Lorraine marriage, the pre- contract. It was stated emphatically that the lady would bring them with her, but it appears she did not. Even the least suspicious man would ask himself why they have still not shown them. I cannot proceed. I cannot marry until I am sure she is clear of all past promises.

CROMWELL

Majesty.

Cromwell tries to reply but Henry silences him with a raised hand.

HENRY

I find her nothing so well as she is spoken of.

CROMWELL

Fitzwilliam wrote from Calais praising her outright. Well, I've not yet seen the lady, but...

(CONTINUED)

33

CONTINUED:

33

HENRY

No, you have not seen her. You and I have both been at the mercy of reports, so you cannot be blamed. But when I encountered her yesterday, I tell you, I had much ado to master myself. A great outlandish bonnet... And her height, and stiff as she is, I thought to myself, 'I am to marry the Cornhill Maypole'.

Cromwell laughs.

HENRY (CONT'D)

And I believe she had painted her mouth which, if true, is a filthy thing.

CROMWELL

Well, her attire can be changed, sir.

HENRY

Her complexion is sallow. When I think of Jane, so white and clear, a pearl.

CROMWELL

Well, I think this will be the journey, sir. All those long tedious hours with a baggage train, the delays, and then... then the voyage from Calais. As for the papers, I... I cannot guess why the ambassadors have not brought them. But we know there's no pre-contract and the parties were not yet of age. You said yourself it's no great matter.

HENRY

It is a great matter, if I think I am married and find I am not.

LEAD the sound of TRUMPETS.

34

OMITTED

34

35

OMITTED

35

35A

INT. KING'S PRESENCE CHAMBER, HAMPTON COURT PALACE - DAY

35A

A LOUD TRUMPET FANFARE. Henry the King, dressed spectacularly in purple and cloth of gold, his garments slashed, puffed and studded with gemstones, enters the packed Presence Chamber. On his arm is ANNE OF CLEVES, dressed in the best fashion of her country, her caul topped by a bonnet stiff with pearls, her gown cut full and round, without a train. Following behind them, the King's PRIVY ATTENDANTS, including Rafe, Olisleger and Anne's new Maids of Honour, as seen in Episode 205 scene 18. All of the COURT is there to meet them - bowing low and welcoming their new Queen. We see Norfolk, Suffolk, Edward Seymour and many others.

FIND Cromwell, observing from the side.

INSERT CROMWELL'S POV: Amongst the Queen's Maids of Honour, Catherine Howard - gawping at the spectacle around her. She has clearly *not* been sent away from Court, as Cromwell had instructed.

OLISLEGER (B/G)

(to Anne)

Das ist ein sehr wichtiger Mann.
Seien Sie vorsichtig.

ON Cromwell, registering this. After a beat, Stephen Gardiner and the French Ambassador Castillon appear by his side.

GARDINER

I hear there was an upset at Rochester, Cromwell.

CROMWELL

Oh. You know more than I do.

GARDINER

So I do. High time you admitted it.

MALE COURTIER 2 (B/G)

(to Henry)

Your Majesty.

ON Gardiner and Castillon, their jubilation at the unravelling of Cromwell's plans unconcealed. Eventually, they move on.

GARDINER (O.S.)

(to Henry)

Your Majesty.

HOLD on Cromwell, his mind racing.

FITZWILLIAM (V.O.)

God, is there no help for it?

36	OMITTED	36
37	OMITTED	37
37A	OMITTED	37A
38	INT. CORRIDOR/COUNCIL CHAMBER, HAMPTON COURT - DAY	38

TRACK with Cromwell, Wriothesley and Fitzwilliam towards the Council Chamber.

FITZWILLIAM

He's seething inside, I know him from childhood. The papers are an excuse. He dislikes her or he is frightened of her... But mark this, Cromwell - I will not be stuck with the blame, just because it was I who was sent to meet her at Calais.

CROMWELL

Listen, no one is seeking to blame you. It is his own fault, if there is fault. Rushing about the countryside like a lovelorn youth.

TRACK ON into the Council Chamber. Norfolk is there, with the other Councillors.

NORFOLK

So, Cromwell. He wants to get out of it, I hear.

Cromwell sits - not waiting for Norfolk, as precedence dictates. Wriothesley takes a seat with the other CLERKS. Fitzwilliam waits till Norfolk is seated.

CROMWELL

Let's be clear, my lords. The King of France and the Emperor are together seeing in the New Year. They have not been so close in our lifetime. They have a fleet and funds to attack us. Our forts are still building. Ireland is against us. Scotland is against us. If we are not to be overrun this spring, we need the Princes of Germany on our side, either sending forces to our aid or engaging the enemy so that we can defeat him or force a truce. The King needs to make this marriage. England needs it.

(CONTINUED)

38

CONTINUED:

38

The Council considers this.

SUFFOLK

He agreed to it. He signed up. He can't jib now.

RICHARD RICHE

I agree. I agree with my lord Suffolk. The King has gone too far in the matter. He was convinced before that she was free to marry. And she seems a good enough woman to me.

NORFOLK

(to Richard Riche)

Oh, she seems a good enough woman to you, does she?

NORFOLK (CONT'D)

Well, perhaps you do not understand the requirements of a prince.

HENRY (V.O.)

(to Attendant)

I said already...

39

INT. KING'S OUTER PRIVY CHAMBER, HAMPTON COURT - DAY

39

The day of the wedding. The COUNCILLORS stand in muted conversation, pretending not to hear the raised voices from the inner room. *

HENRY (O.S.)

I wanted my diamond. Why is my diamond not here? Put on my ring. Come on, we're late. We're going to be late

(to Rafe)

Sadler?

Henry emerges from his Inner Privy Chamber with Rafe and other ATTENDANTS, already dressed in cloth-of-gold strewn with silver flowers.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Where is my Lord Essex. He is supposed to escort her.

(beat)

He is late. What will she think?

(To Cromwell)

Cromwell, you fetch her.

CROMWELL

I am not worthy, Your Majesty.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

HENRY

You are if I say you are.

The far door opens and the elderly EARL OF ESSEX limps in - to find everyone glaring at him.

LORD ESSEX

What?

COUNCILLORS

LATE!

LORD ESSEX

What's the hurry?

COUNCILLOR (B/G)

(muttering)

old toad.

LORD ESSEX

Well, dark mornings, ice on the path, needless to imperil oneself.

HENRY

Cromwell.

Cromwell passes Lord Essex, on his way to collect Anne.

LORD ESSEX

Is Cromwell going for her? Won't she be insulted, majesty? She must know he was once a common shearsman?

Cromwell stops, turns back.

HENRY

Oh, get on! Get on, Cromwell. What matter who does it?

The Councillors look shocked. Henry calls after Cromwell.

HENRY (CONT'D)

(Vicious)

I tell you, my lord, if it were not for fear of driving her brother into the arms of the Emperor, I would not do what I must do this day, for none earthly thing.

ON Cromwell, struggling to cope with yet another public dressing down from the King.

40 INT. QUEEN'S CHAPEL, HAMPTON COURT PALACE - DAY

40

Anne, glittering in pearl flowers, wearing an elaborate, winged head-dress, stands next to Henry in the chapel where he wed Jane Seymour in Episode 201 scene 13. All bow their heads as Cranmer concludes the marriage service with a blessing.

CRANMER

Benedicti.

(Makes sign of cross)

Sitis a Dómino, qui fecit mundum ex
níchilo. Amen.

At the Archbishop's signal, Henry turns, takes Anne by the elbows and plants a kiss on her cheek. Ducking stiffly around her head-dress, he kisses her other cheek. Anne purses her lips in readiness for the final, loving kiss but Henry turns away.

CRANMER (CONT'D)

Deo Gratias.

TRUMPETS SOUND. The King and Queen leave the chapel hand in hand, to SHOUTS of:

COURTIERS

Gaudete, gaudete!

ON Cromwell, watching it all with a growing feeling of dread.

41 INT. QUEEN'S OUTER ROOMS, HAMPTON COURT PALACE - DAY

41

TRACK with Cromwell through the Queen's outer rooms. Ahead, the closed door to the Queen's bedchamber, the heavy curtain that formerly masked it now tied back.

ON Cromwell, remembering the last time he was here - on the day Queen Jane died.

42 INT. QUEEN'S BEDCHAMBER, HAMPTON COURT PALACE - NIGHT

42

FLASHBACK - Episode 204 Scene 18: The closed curtain, masking the door. A GUARD draws it back.

FLASHBACK - Episode 204 Scene 18: Jane, desperately sick, attempting to take a drink of wine, most of it spilling down her napkin. Mary Shelton lowers her gently back onto the bed.

43 INT. OUTER ROOM/QUEEN'S BEDCHAMBER, HAMPTON COURT - DAY

43

THE PRESENT: the guard opens the familiar bedchamber door, admitting Cromwell.

(CONTINUED)

43

CONTINUED:

43

TRACK ON with Cromwell into the now brightly lit room. Anne of Cleves is standing before him with Olisleger, still wearing her wedding dress. Norfolk's niece, Catherine Howard, sits on the floor beside her, holding a needle and thread, an inch of the Queen's hem in her fingers. A knot of CLEVES LADIES are talking quietly IN GERMAN nearby.

Mary is also there, standing apart from the others, observing. She looks round when Cromwell enters, meets his eye briefly, looks away again.

Cromwell bows low. Olisleger whispers to Anne. She breaks into a warm smile.

OLISLEGER (B/G)
(to Anne of Cleves)
Das ist ein Cromwell. Der
Lordsiegelbewahrer.

ANNE OF CLEVES
(German accent)
You are Lord Cromwell. Thank you
for escorting me this morning.

CROMWELL
Hmm.

Olisleger whispers again.

ANNE OF CLEVES
And thank you for the cakes. A
taste of home. You have visited my
home?

CROMWELL
I have not. We were misinformed
about your English, your grace. It
is very good.

Anne smiles. There is an endearing lack of guile about her.

ANNE OF CLEVES
I have a long journey - and a good
tutor.
(Then)
I hoped for letters at Calais. But
there was nothing for me.

Cromwell realises she is homesick.

CROMWELL
A-ha. The posts are very bad at
this time of year. I myself am
awaiting news from our ambassadors
in France and Spain.

(CONTINUED)

43

CONTINUED:

43

ANNE OF CLEVES

Ah, yes, to know whether the friendship continues. I know it is um... unkind to wish for war, but I know that my brother Wilhelm would be very happy if the Emperor and the French King would fight each other again with their fists and teeth.

She laughs.

44

OMITTED

44

45

EXT. HAMPTON COURT PALACE - DAWN

45

Dawn. Hampton Court Palace shrouded in mist, weary SOLDIERS guarding its portals.

46

INT. KING'S PRESENCE CHAMBER, HAMPTON COURT - DAWN

46

Cromwell waits with Olisleger and other Cleves delegates in the dawn light.

OLISLEGER

A gift for you, Lord Cromwell.

He hands Cromwell a beautiful clock, tiny and intricate.

CROMWELL

For me?

OLISLEGER

From Duke Wilhelm, to thank you for your efforts.

Cromwell examines it, delighted. But, before he can speak, the door to the privy chamber opens and Henry emerges, with Rafe and other members of his ENTOURAGE. He is on the way to his chapel and doesn't look happy. He spots the Cleves delegates.

HENRY

Gentlemen, you will be pleased to know that, despite the fact that you have still failed to provide the paperwork that I requested, I have sent the Queen her *morgengabe*, as I think you call it. A gift in accordance with the custom of your country. We will let you have written details of the value.

(CONTINUED)

46

CONTINUED:

46

Struggling for something to improve the King's mood, Cromwell steps forward, offers Henry the clock.

CROMWELL

And a gift from Cleves, majesty.
To celebrate your new union.

Henry examines it briefly, smiles perfunctorily and passes it to Rafe. He starts to move on, then turns and indicates Cromwell should follow.

47

INT. PRESENCE CHAMBER/CLOISTER CORRIDOR, HAMPTON COURT - DAWN 47

TRACK with Cromwell, walking with the King, Rafe and the others. He opts for the brisk approach.

CROMWELL

How liked you the Queen?

HENRY

I liked her not well before, I like her much worse now. Her breasts are slack, her belly has loose skin on it. When I felt it, it struck me to the heart! I had no appetite for the rest. I do not believe she is a maid.

Cromwell has to fight an impulse to walk away, to flee this insanity.

CROMWELL

Oh, Majesty... Majesty, she has never strayed from her mother's side...

But Henry is approaching his chapel, leaving Cromwell no choice but to let him go.

ON Cromwell, left in the corridor alone.

CROMWELL (V.O.)

Well, what did Anna say?

48

INT. LONG GALLERY, HAMPTON COURT PALACE - NIGHT

48

TRACK with Cromwell and Lady Rochford, walking in the Long Gallery at night. They talk quietly, though the gallery is largely deserted.

Lady Rochford's familiar, withering look.

(CONTINUED)

LADY ROCHFORD

Nothing. Her English disappears when convenient. I'm hardly going to bring the men in to interpret.

Cromwell comes to a halt, forcing Lady Rochford to do the same. He appraises her.

CROMWELL

You like her.

Lady Rochford considers.

LADY ROCHFORD

She keeps her own counsel - sets us a good example, don't you think?

She begins to move off. Then, relenting:

LADY ROCHFORD (CONT'D)

Our view is he lay on her and put his fingers in her. C'est tout.

She walks on. ON Cromwell, considering.

FITZWILLIAM (V.O.)

The King says she has unpleasant airs about her.

The Council is brooding on the problem. The King's canopied chair is empty.

FITZWILLIAM

You might talk to her chamber-women. See if they are washing her well enough.

CROMWELL

You talk to them!

Cromwell gives him a hard look. Fitzwilliam pushes back.

FITZWILLIAM

This was your gamble, Cromwell.

CROMWELL

If I promoted the match, it was with the King's full permission and encouragement. And this Council's.

FITZWILLIAM

(Sourly)

Yes, and now it's me getting the blame!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

49

CONTINUED:

49

FITZWILLIAM (CONT'D)

Harry says I should have stopped her at Calais. I wrote saying she was like a princess - well, she is! Is it for me to feel her duckies and write home my opinion?

Wriothesley hurries in, LETTER in hand.

NORFOLK

(Bawling)

Get out! Interrupting the Council!

WRIOTHESELEY

There is news from Wyatt in Spain!

(beat)

He says he has driven a wedge between the French and the Emperor.

A ripple of reaction through the Council. Wriothesley consults the letter.

WRIOTHESELEY (CONT'D)

Apparently he accused the Emperor in front of his whole Court of being ungrateful to our king. The Emperor then, of course, flew into a rage and said... um...

(Reading from letter)

"How dare your master use that word, ungrateful? That charge cannot be levelled against an Emperor by the envoy of some poor little island full of heretics and sheep? An inferior person, a king, cannot expect gratitude. The Holy Roman Emperor is set above mere kings. Their natural position is at his feet."

Richard Riche looks puzzled.

RICHARD RICHE

I'm sorry, I... I don't understand. Why does that drive a wedge?

ON Cromwell, his mind racing.

CROMWELL

In insulting our king, the Emperor insults all kings. Including his ally, the King of France.

Slow smiles spread throughout the Council.

(CONTINUED)

FITZWILLIAM

By Christ, that was well done!
 Wyatt may have started a fire that
 will burn their peace treaty clean
 up! We may yet be able to sleep
 safe in our beds.

Cromwell notices Norfolk watching him with an unpleasant
 grin.

NORFOLK

Then we won't need your German
 friends - will we, Cromwell? And
 Henry won't need this marriage.
 Your man Wyatt aids his country but
 works contrary to your purpose.

Cromwell, stony-faced, doesn't reply.

ON Christophe, pouring wine for Cromwell and Rafe, seated by
 the fire.

CROMWELL

Thank you, Christophe.

Christophe is anxious about Cromwell. But, eventually, he
 turns and leaves, closing the door behind him.

RAFE

Can you save him? From this
 marriage?

CROMWELL

How often do you get the chance to
 change the map of the world?
 Perhaps once in two or three
 generations? Can I free him? Can I
 free him? It's not impossible. But
 to let that chance slip away...

RAFE

I should be here with you. Richard
 is with his new family; 'Call-Me'
 is... is just jealous... of anyone
 you esteem above him; Richard Riche
 is a tissue of ambition. And, and
 Fitzwilliam - I thought he was your
 friend but I'm not sure he is to be
 trusted. He will see you blamed if
 it will deflect blame from himself.

Cromwell considers. Then:

50

CONTINUED:

50

CROMWELL

You serve me better where you are,
 Rafe - with the King. So, what
 shall we do? What can we do but, as
 Cicero says: 'Live hopefully, die
 bravely'.

OUT on Rafe's quizzical look.

*

52

INT. PRESENCE CHAMBER, HAMPTON COURT PALACE - NIGHT

52

TRACK with Cromwell and Wriothesley, across the Presence
 Chamber at Hampton Court.

NORFOLK (O.C.)

Cromwell!!

They look round. Norfolk is thundering towards them out of
 the dark corridor.

NORFOLK (CONT'D)

Thetford Priory!

CROMWELL

Yes, my lord.

NORFOLK

You've shut it!

CROMWELL

I have.

NORFOLK

That's my country! I told you, my
 forebears lie there! My father lies
 there! "Flodden Norfolk," they
 called him - named after the
 battle! Now where is he to go?
 It's an insult to the Howard name!
 My father must be prayed for, damn
 you!

CROMWELL

Your old dad. Why don't you let him
 take his chances?

Norfolk is white with rage.

NORFOLK

You dare hold me in contempt? I'll
 have your guts, you filthy ingrate!

(Then)

What were you, hmm, Wolsey owned
 the shirt on your back.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

52

CONTINUED:

52

NORFOLK (CONT'D)

Now you stir yourself, and you show your gratitude - to me and to the King, who have done so much for you. You keep your hands out of my affairs. And you take your fucking Germans and you kick them out the door.

With the change in subject, it's Cromwell's turn to raise his voice.

CROMWELL

The whole Council approved that match. You signed it, Thomas Howard. You did! As well as I! As for the lady, the King could not get her here fast enough.

NORFOLK

I tell you, he wants to be free! Have you not seen him looking at my niece? He cast a fantasy to Catherine the first time he ever did see her!

CROMWELL

If you want power, why don't you get it like a man. Instead of pandering your fucking nieces.

Norfolk stamps to his feet.

NORFOLK

What? What?

Cromwell's KNIFE lies by his heart, as it has all these years. His hand reaches for it. And, in that moment, he knows it could happen. He could murder Norfolk. He lets his hand drop back to his side.

NORFOLK (CONT'D)

God rot you.

Norfolk stares at him with blind hatred and fury for a beat, then pivots and returns the way he came. Cromwell smiles after him, apparently unconcerned.

WRIOTHESELEY

Was that wise, sir? He takes such pride in his ancestors. I don't think he'll forgive you for turning them out.

ON Cromwell, still thinking about how close he came to drawing a weapon in the precincts of the King's Court.

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED:

52

WRIOTHESLEY (CONT'D)

Norfolk, he may be a brute but he's right. You told the King that without the Germans he was destitute of friends. Which was true. But now the alliance is melting away, Henry will be courted again - by France and Emperor both. I don't think Norfolk has disclosed all of his dealings with the French. I believe they made overtures of friendship that were... I will not say hidden - entrusted to the Duke and not to you. They hate you, sir - and Norfolk, he encourages them. Didn't I advise you, when the Boleyns came down? Break Norfolk, I said. Break him. Whilst you have the chance.

ON Cromwell. He knows there's right in what Wriothesley is saying but he doesn't care. Again, the reckless quality.

INT. SECOND CLOISTER, SHAFTEBURY ABBEY - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Dorothea stands alone facing an altar. As we approach closer, she turns to face us.

53 OMITTED 53

54 OMITTED 54

55 OMITTED 55

56 OMITTED 56

57 OMITTED 57

58 OMITTED 58

59 INT. KING'S OUTER PRIVY CHAMBER, HAMPTON COURT PALACE - DAY 59

THE PRESENT: FIND Cromwell, waiting by the window in the King's empty outer privy chamber, remembering. He watches the trees, moving silently in the breeze.

A door opens. Henry appears from his inner privy chamber.

(CONTINUED)

59

CONTINUED:

59

HENRY

I have a matter to put to you. It is a matter of some gravity. Come with me here and close the door.

ON Cromwell, wondering if all the moments of his life have been leading up to this moment. He follows the King back into the inner privy chamber, the door CLOSING ON US behind him. HOLD, then:

60

EXT/INT. COURTYARD/ENTRANCE/GREAT HALL, AUSTIN FRIARS - DAY 60

TRACK with Cromwell into the entrance hall at Austin Friars. He stands for a moment, pale and dazed. Wriothesley hurries into view, holding up a document.

WRIOTHESELEY

Sir. Sir, you must see this at once. It's a copy of a letter from Ambassador Castillon to the French King. I um... I put a man in his train.

He looks round. Rafe is riding into the courtyard. He dismounts. Wriothesley continues.

WRIOTHESELEY (CONT'D)

Now Castillon says that King Henry means to take the Privy Seal from us and give it to Fitzwilliam. And that he will cast you down from your office as Vicegerent, and raise up Bishop Tunstall.

Rafe reaches them.

RAFE

I received your summons. What is it? What's happened?

CROMWELL

Well, I... I've just come from the King... straight from the King, and I have news. Good news for both of you. I hope you will think so. Come in.

Cromwell moves into the Great Hall, starts to remove his gloves. They follow.

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

Come. Sit with me. Sit here.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

60

CONTINUED:

60

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

As you know, ever since I have been Master Secretary, I have tried to be with the King's person, I am now going to divide my duties. From now on, you two will share the task. Each of you will be Master Secretary. You will split your time so if one of you is in Westminster, the other will be with the King.

They stare at him in amazement. He smiles, holds their shoulders.

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

You will both be made knights. You will both be raised to the Council. You know what I have made of this office, nothing eludes it. Nothing is beyond it. From now on, everything starts with you and with you everything stops.

He gathers himself, savouring the moment.

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

Rafe. Yes. And... I am to be made Lord Great Chamberlain. Chief of the Household. The Earl of Essex died last night and well, I am to be given his title.

A moment of stunned silence. And then pandemonium. Rafe is hugging him. MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD, who have been hovering, expecting the worst, are flocking in - yelling in delight.

60A INT. CLERKS' ROOM/CROMWELL'S NEW STUDY, AUSTIN FRIARS - DAY 60A

...on past CLAPPING CLERKS, into the quiet of his study.

Cromwell's gaze turns to Wolsey's corner - empty, as it has been these many months.

CROMWELL

When I left the King - before I came here, b... before I told my household - I wanted to tell you first, Master.

He thinks for a beat.

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

To have your blessing. I wanted to tell my old dad.

(chuckles, assumes accent)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

60A CONTINUED:

60A

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

'What, 'Put-an-edge-on-it' has been
made an earl?'
(laughs)
Just to see his face. But everyone
I wanted to tell is dead.

Wolsey's corner remains steadfastly empty.

61 OMITTED

61

62 OMITTED

62

63 OMITTED

63

64 INT. CROMWELL'S NEW STUDY, AUSTIN FRIARS - NIGHT

64

Cromwell is eating a small meal, alone at the table in his
study, surrounded by papers. A knock.

CROMWELL

Hm-hmmm.

Gregory enters, accompanied by his wife, Bess.

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

Gregory.

GREGORY

Father. Bess has something she
wishes to tell you.

CROMWELL

What is it, Bess?

Cromwell indicates for them to join him at the table. Bess
sits but Gregory remains standing. A strange moment.
Gregory can't quite seem to decide whether he should stay or
leave them alone together. In the end:

GREGORY

I will leave you both.

He withdraws, closing the door gently behind him.

BESS OUGHTRED

Catherine Howard has left the
court. She is back at Lambeth,
with Norfolk.

CROMWELL

I know.

(CONTINUED)

BESS OUGHTRED

The Queen was glad to see her go.
But the Queen doesn't understand.

CROMWELL

Understand what?

BESS OUGHTRED

He visits her. The King. He stays
with her until late. His barge
comes back after sunset. The
Howards believe he might marry her.
And who is to say he will not?

CROMWELL

Do you have proof?

BESS OUGHTRED

I was bidden to a piece of work.
It was handed to me out of malice.
It was something of Jane's. Jane,
my sister. It was her girdle book,
her little prayers. I was told, to
take this and to pick her initials
out. I said, I will not. I will not
do it. I am Mistress Cromwell. I am
not some servant.

She is close to tears in her anger.

BESS OUGHTRED (CONT'D)

The next thing I see, Catherine
Howard is wearing it at her waist.
And it is not the first gift that
she has had that belongs to some
lady better than she will ever be.

Cromwell feels a wave of exhaustion. *Will it never end?*

TRACK with Cromwell into the King's inner privy chamber,
carrying a sheaf of papers to discuss. Henry stands by the
window, staring out. They are otherwise alone.

HENRY

Could you have another child,
Crumb?

Cromwell is startled by this unexpected question.

HENRY (CONT'D)

I think you could. You are of
common stock. Common men have
vigour.

(Then)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

51

CONTINUED:

51

HENRY (CONT'D)

I thought I would get another son
from this marriage, but there is no
sign God intends it.

Henry moves away from the window, sinks into a chair.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Can't we pay her off? We might
write to Cleves this moment. You
could write at my dictation, as we
once used to.

*

Cromwell would prefer to write his own letters.

CROMWELL

My eyes are not what they were,
sir.

Henry leans forward, his head in his hands.

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

We could offer her a settlement,
sir, but I don't know how much we
would need to find to placate her
brother. And I do not know how to
salvage Your Majesty's reputation,
if you were to renounce a lawful
match. Imagine it would be hard to
hold your head up before your
fellow princes. Or come by another
wife.

HENRY

I could come by one tomorrow.

CROMWELL

Yes, most likely some papist. And
then I would wish myself far away.

Henry stares up at him. Cromwell has never spoken to him
like this before.

HENRY

Come sit with me. Put your papers
to one side. Come sit down.

Cromwell is surprised. It is many months since Henry made
such an invitation. Leaving the sheaf of papers on a table,
he moves a chair closer to the King, sits.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Do you remember the day we rode
down to the Weald? To see the
ironmasters, and find out new ways
of casting cannon?

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

51

Cromwell nods minutely, knowing full well the trip never took place.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Those were brighter days. Jane did not like me to leave her, but she knew that we had long planned the excursion, and your lordship's press of business being what it is, the duties of a king being what they are, she did not ask me to forbear.

CROMWELL

Hm.

HENRY

I said to her, it will be only two nights or three, and we will take it at our ease. We shall listen to the birdsong. We shall ride, like knights of Camelot, through the woods. We shall enjoy the sunshine.

Silence, each lost in thought.

HENRY (CONT'D)

But when I think about it, I recall we never made that journey.

CROMWELL

Into Kent? No, but it was projected.

Henry stares at him. The look is hard to decipher.

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

Let's say we did, sir. Let's say the ironmasters gave us their best welcome, opened their minds to us, showed us all their secrets.

HENRY

They must. No one could keep secrets from me. It is no use to try.

ON Cromwell, trying to fathom what Henry means by all this.

RAFE (V.O.)

The King would not elevate you, make you lord High Chamberlain, Earl of Essex -

66	OMITTED	66
67	OMITTED	67
68	OMITTED	68
69	OMITTED	69
70	OMITTED	70
71	INT. GREAT HALL, HAMPTON COURT PALACE - DAY	71

TRACK with Cromwell as he walks with Rafe across the almost empty Great Hall at Hampton Court Palace.

RAFE

... if he meant to destroy you.

CROMWELL

Have I not taught you Rafe? Have you not read it in the 'Book Called Henry' which I wrote for you. Never say what the King will *not* do.

Despite his perilous position, Cromwell seems charged with energy.

WRIOTHESLEY (O.C.)

Sir Rafe...?

They turn. Wriothesley is hurrying up from behind. He is clutching papers, seemingly wishing to talk to Rafe. Reluctantly, Rafe turns back. Cromwell continues alone.

72	EXT. CLOCK COURT, HAMPTON COURT PALACE - DAY	72
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TRACK ON with Cromwell, across the Clock Court, lost in thought. Richard Riche walks beside him, Fitzwilliam behind, Norfolk nearby conversing with ASSOCIATES who have their swords at their sides. It's a blustery day and the wind suddenly whips Cromwell's hat from his head, bowls it away from him. Waking from his reverie, he stares after it - then back at the Councillors around him.

No-one stops walking, no-one else uncovers.

73 INT. OUTER ROOM/COUNCIL CHAMBER, HAMPTON COURT PALACE - DAY 73

TRACK ON with Cromwell into the Council Chamber, apparently at his ease.

CROMWELL
(Glancing around)
Is my lord Archbishop on his way?

FITZWILLIAM
Er, we're not expecting him.

Gardiner appears at the door, blocking the way. Still Cromwell keeps his tone casual.

CROMWELL
My lord Bishop, are you on the Council now?

GARDINER
Imminently.

Here it comes, here it comes...

CROMWELL
We'll see how long that lasts, shall we? Anyone take a bet?

He sits, looks through his papers.

CROMWELL (CONT'D)
Well, our numbers are down. But shall we begin?

FITZWILLIAM
We don't sit with traitors.

There's a kind of wonderful release when they finally rush him. He's up on his feet again, his chair flying. The CLERKS back against the wall as the KING'S HALBERDIERS fill the room and the Councillors fall on him in a pack.

Fitzwilliam is trying to pull his gold chain off but Cromwell shoves him away. The space is filled by Norfolk, who fastens on him like a terrier.

NORFOLK
(Gasping)
I'll tear out your heart and stuff it down your throat...

Cromwell's punch sends him falling back against the table, but Fitzwilliam is back. They're all back - kicking and hauling, buffeting...

FITZWILLIAM
Get his arms. Get his arms!

(CONTINUED)

And at the centre, lost in the joy of his honest rage, Cromwell roars like a bear, fists whirling. He pounds them, lands a solid kick at Gardiner when he skips too close.

FITZWILLIAM (CONT'D)

Get his arms. Hold him.

Then the chain is off, and they have backed away in a panting circle. Cromwell stands, head down, eyes narrowed: *come on, come on, what else have you got?*

The circle parts and WILLIAM KINGSTON, Constable of the Tower, steps calmly towards him.

KINGSTON

(Gently)

My lord, you must come with me. I will walk by your side and lead you through the crowd.

There is only one place Kingston leads you - and, like that, Cromwell loses heart. He straightens himself, feeling his legs tremble. Kingston escorts him to the door.

GARDINER

Adieu, Cromwell.

He stops, stares at his enemy.

CROMWELL

(Quietly)

Give me my title, Stephen.

GARDINER

You have no title. It's gone. You are no more than God made you. May He take you to his mercy.

ON Cromwell, his mind spinning, trying to comprehend his fate.

CUT TO BLACK.