

THE MIRROR AND THE LIGHT

EPISODE 5

Screenplay by

Peter Straughan

Based on the novel by

Hilary Mantel

Episode 5 - 26th November 2024

1 OMITTED

1\*

INT. CROMWELL'S STUDY, AUSTIN FRIARS - NIGHT

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

GARDINER (V.O.)  
So who was the murderer?

WRIOTHESLEY (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 humbly-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.

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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)

2

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2

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

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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)

4 CONTINUED:

4

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.

5 INT. OUTER ROOMS/MARY'S PRIVY CHAMBER, HAMPTON COURT - DAY 5

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

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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)



6

CONTINUED:

6

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 weiß 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 euer 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.

7

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER, HAMPTON COURT PALACE - DAY

7

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	<p>CONTINUED:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CROMWELL (CONT'D)</p> <p>But, in Europe, they are claiming the marriage is made against her will.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HENRY</p> <p>They think I would enforce her?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CROMWELL</p> <p>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...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Then)</p> <p>Mary will always be a rallying point for your enemies.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NORFOLK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Cutting in)</p> <p>You see, your majesty? Your daughter will never marry. Cromwell breaks every match proposed for her. I wonder why?</p> <p>Confusion in the Council. Henry stares at Cromwell, his expression dark, unfathomable.</p>	7
8	<p>OMITTED</p>	8
9	<p>OMITTED</p>	9
10	<p>OMITTED</p>	10
11	<p>OMITTED</p>	11
12	<p>INT. GREAT HALL, AUSTIN FRIARS - DAY</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CROMWELL</p> <p>I am bringing Anne of Cleves overland to Calais. I want you there with Fitzwilliam, when she arrives, paying reverence on my behalf.</p> <p>FIND Gregory, sitting at the table eating breakfast with Richard Cromwell and Wriothesley.</p>	12

(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.

WRIOTHESLEY

(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)

13 CONTINUED:

13

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.

(CONTINUED)

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 Wriothsesley, watching from the shadows. Eventually, Cromwell turns - walks off. HOLD ON Wriothsesley, staring after Cromwell, his expression impossible to read.

15 OMITTED 15

16 OMITTED 16

17 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.

Wriothsesley appears, looking alarmed.

WRIOTHESLEY  
Sir...

Cromwell turns, what now? He follows Wriothsesley out.

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

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

(CONTINUED)



19

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19

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 Wriothsesley consider the best  
approach.

WRIOTHESLEY  
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,  
Wriothsesley? 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 Wriothsesley 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.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

WRIOTHESLEY

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.

WRIOTHESLEY

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 Wriothsesley, back out into the Outer Privy Chamber.

CROMWELL

Christ!

WRIOTHESLEY

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 Wriothsesley 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.

Wriothsesley acknowledges the assignment. They walk on.

WRIOTHESLEY

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 Wriothsesley, 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. <i>Wreckage.</i>	
		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		26
27	OMITTED		27
28	OMITTED		28
29	OMITTED		29
30	OMITTED		30

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

Fitzwillian 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, Wriothsesley 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. Wriothsesley 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)

(mutters)

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

Benedícti.

(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)

48

CONTINUED:

48

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 displeasing  
airs about her.

49

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER, HAMPTON COURT PALACE - DAY

49

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?

Wriothsesley hurries in, LETTER in hand.

NORFOLK

(Bawling)

Get out! Interrupting the Council!

WRIOTHESLEY

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. Wriothsesley consults the letter.

WRIOTHESLEY (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)

49 CONTINUED:

49

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.

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

50

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:

(CONTINUED)

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 Wriothsesley, 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, hmmm, 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 pandaring 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.

WRIOTHESLEY

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, SHAFTESBURY 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. Wriothsesley hurries into view, holding up a document.

WRIOTHESLEY

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. Wriothsesley continues.

WRIOTHESLEY (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)



64

CONTINUED:

64

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?*

51

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

51

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 -

65 OMITTED

65

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

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)

73

CONTINUED:

73

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.