

THE MIRROR AND THE LIGHT

EPISODE 6

Screenplay by

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Based on the novel by

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Episode 6 – 2nd December 2024

1 OMITTED

1

2 INT. GREAT HALL, HAMPTON COURT PALACE - DAY

2

MEMORY (NEW MATERIAL): TRACK with Cromwell, MOS, as he is led through the Great Hall at Hampton Court Palace by William Kingston, Constable of the Tower. Some COURTIERS stare, astonished. Others TAUNT Cromwell as he passes. But we hear NO SOUND, just SCORE.

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER, HAMPTON COURT PALACE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Cromwell gets up from the table and pushes Fitzwilliam. Cromwell is mobbed by the other councillors. From the background, Gardiner looks on.

INT. GREAT HALL, HAMPTON COURT PALACE - DAY

Cromwell is escorted by guards.

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER, HAMPTON COURT PALACE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Cromwell struggles with the councillors.

CUT TO BLACK.

TITLE CARD:

10th June, 1540

3 OMITTED

3

FADE IN:

4 EXT. BARGE, RIVER NEAR THE TOWER, LONDON - DAY

4

MEMORY (NEW MATERIAL): FIND Cromwell in a simple barge, being conveyed to the Tower by Kingston. The image is similar to that depicted in Episode 106 Scene 31A: Anne Boleyn on her way to her death. Only now, Cromwell occupies Anne's seat in the barge and Kingston occupies Cromwell's.

Cromwell looks up. The Tower rears above him, sheer and intimidating.

4A OMITTED

4A

5 OMITTED

5

6	INT. GREAT HALL/STAIRS/ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER - DAY	6
MEMORY (NEW MATERIAL): TRACK with Cromwell, Kingston and the ESCORT through the empty Great Hall at the Tower, up stairs and into the Outer Royal Apartment. Cromwell stops on the threshold, gazes into the familiar Inner room.		
ON Cromwell, remembering.		
7		
7	INT. INNER ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER, LONDON - DAY	7
FLASHBACK: brief, MOS MEMORIES from Anne's incarceration in Episode 106 Scene 49:		
- Anne kneeling in prayer in front of an altar by the window.		
- Anne begging Cromwell to believe in her innocence, hands clasped to her throat in supplication.		
8	OMITTED	8
9	INT. INNER ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER, LONDON - DAY	9
THE PRESENT: BACK ON Cromwell, still standing by the window in the Inner Royal Apartment, lost in MEMORY. Eventually, his gaze is drawn to an elaborate TRIPTYCH. Barefoot DIANA stares at us, an arrow fitted to her bow.		
10	OMITTED	10
10A	OMITTED	10A
11	OMITTED	11
12	OMITTED	12
13	OMITTED	13
14	OMITTED	14
14A	OMITTED	14A
15	OMITTED	15

16 INT. INNER ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER, LONDON - NIGHT 16

Night. The character of the room has changed - bright daylight replaced by pools of candlelight and intense shadow.

FIND Cromwell, eating his evening meal. He pauses, struggling to catch his breath.

INT. CHAPEL, AUSTIN FRIARS - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Cromwell sits beside Jenneke.

JENNEKE

Then come with me now, Father. To Antwerp, that you were homesick for.

Cromwell doesn't speak.

JENNEKE (CONT'D)

But you will not.

17 OMITTED 17

18 OMITTED 18

19 OMITTED 19

20 OMITTED 20

21 INT. INNER ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER, LONDON - NIGHT 21

THE PRESENT: BACK ON Cromwell remembering.

A SOUND at the door. Cromwell puts his napkin down and steps towards the door.

Rafe enters.

CROMWELL

Come here.

They embrace.

INT. INNER ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER, LONDON - NIGHT (LATER)

Rafe sits opposite Cromwell.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAFE

I did not know myself what was happening.

(Then)

If I had known, I would have got warning to you somehow.

RAFE (CONT'D)

As we were going in Wriothesley called me back for some footling piece of business...

22

INT. GREAT HALL, HAMPTON COURT PALACE - DAY

22

FLASHBACK (NEW MATERIAL - REINTERPRETATION of Episode 205 Scene 71 from Rafe's POV): TRACK with Rafe, through stream of people coming the other way.

RAFE (V.O.)

...and then as I approached the Council Chamber...

Richard Riche approaches, rolled document in hand. He sees Rafe, looks immediately shamefaced.

RICHARD RICHE

Sadler! Your master is arrested. I am going to Parliament House to announce it.

Richard Riche hurries on, clutching the rolled parchment. Rafe turns back TOWARDS CAMERA, devastated.

23

OMITTED

23

24

INT. INNER ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER, LONDON - NIGHT

24

THE PRESENT: BACK with Cromwell and Rafe.

CROMWELL

How did Parliament take it?

RAFE

In silence.

CROMWELL

No doubt astonished. A man made earl in the morning and kicked out by afternoon.

RAFE

Edward Seymour went at once to the King, to speak for Gregory.

(CONTINUED)

24

CONTINUED:

24

CROMWELL

Did he speak for me?

RAFE

No, sir.

CROMWELL

Did anyone speak for me?

RAFE

Yes. But I was not heard.

CROMWELL

Not Cranmer?

RAFE

He's writing the King a letter.

Cromwell smiles ruefully. Yes, perhaps that's all that could be hoped for from his old friend.

CROMWELL

Try and get me the contents.

They sit in silence for a beat. Cromwell stares at his half-eaten meal, unable to summon the appetite to continue.

RAFE

Richard is enraged.

CROMWELL

Hmm.

RAFE

He wanted to go straight to the King and break in on him.

CROMWELL

Tell him he must not do that. He must rest quiet, and he must keep away from Gregory. Both of them must keep away from you. You must do nothing that could be thought of as conspiracy. I know how Henry's mind works. Well, obviously that's not true or I wouldn't be here, would I?

They laugh.

RAFE

They will both wish to visit here, if the King permits.

CROMWELL

No, they must not. They must stay away.

(CONTINUED)

24

CONTINUED:

24

Rafe stares at Cromwell, moved by the sacrifice he is making to protect those he loves.

CUT TO:

25

INT. OUTER ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER, LONDON - DAY

25

...MEN, manhandling in heavy trestles and a table, installing them in the Outer Royal Apartment.

MAN

(to men)

Good. Keep it level. Down. Down.

JUMP TO:

26

INT. OUTER ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER, LONDON - DAY

26

...Richard Riche, seated at the table, arranging his large pile of documents and notes. He makes no eye contact with Cromwell, who sits opposite.

Gardiner and Norfolk enter together, take their seats either side of Riche.

CROMWELL

(To Gardiner/Norfolk)

You know, I never knew you two to be such great comrades, till lately. More likely to abuse each other roundly than sit together as friends.

NORFOLK

We might not always have seen eye to eye but one thing we have in common: when we scent the truth, we stick on the trail. So beware, Cromwell. Whatever we suspect, we will have out of you, one way or the other.

CROMWELL

It is as crude a threat as I've heard, my lord. But you have no need for it. I will tell you the truth, as I know it and believe it, and beyond that there is nothing for you.

Wriothesley enters. Cromwell gives him a hard look as he takes his seat beside Gardiner. Wriothesley looks away.

(CONTINUED)

26

CONTINUED:

26

RICHARD RICHE (O.C.)

We might begin with the purple
doublet.

27

INT. OUTER ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER, LONDON - DAY

27

Moments later. The interrogation has begun.

RICHARD RICHE

(Looking up at Cromwell)

You understand, sir, that it is my
duty to put these questions to you,
and that I bear you no ill-will in
the doing of it.

CROMWELL

I know a disclaimer when I hear it,
Richard. May I see the King?

They react almost with shock.

NORFOLK

No, by God!

RICHARD RICHE

(Over)

What on earth gave your lordship
that idea?ON Cromwell, thinking for a moment. He slips a RUBY RING
from his finger, holds it up.

CROMWELL

The King of France once gave me
this.

28

OMITTED

28

29

OMITTED

29

30

OMITTED

30

31

INT. OUTER ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER, LONDON - DAY

31

THE PRESENT: Cromwell places the ruby ring on the table.

CROMWELL

And when he did so, I took it to
our King who, in time, was pleased
to return it to me, saying it would
be a token between us.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

And if I sent it to him, even if I did not have my seal, he would know it came from me. So, I send it him now, Master Secretary.

They stare at him puzzled. Eventually, not quite knowing what he should do, Wriothesley takes it.

GARDINER

But what's the point? The King knows where you are. He put you here.

CROMWELL

Yes, I know. But it will remind him how I have served him, to the best of my capacities and the utmost of my strength. As I hope to do for many years yet.

RICHARD RICHE

Yes, well, that is what we are here to determine. Whether you have served him or no. Whether you have abused his confidence, as he believes, and plotted against his throne

A replacement CLERK slips into the room and takes his seat.

CROMWELL

How plotted?

RICHARD RICHE

Y-

GARDINER

(interrupting)

Letters have been found at Austin Friars. Highly prejudicial to your claims to be a loyal and quiet subject.

NORFOLK

Clear proof of treason.

CROMWELL

I'm waiting for you to tell me what they are. I cannot guess what you might forge, can I?

RICHARD RICHE

Letters from Martin Luther himself - and his heretic brethren.

(CONTINUED)

CROMWELL

Melanchthon? Oh, dear. The King writes to him.

GARDINER

And also from German princes, urging on you a course most injurious to King and Commonwealth.

Cromwell smiles.

CROMWELL

There are no such letters. They never existed, and even if they did-

NORFOLK

(Over)

Lawyer's logic.

CROMWELL

...and even if they did, and if they contained seditious matter, would I really leave them about the house for you to find?

He turns his gaze on Wriothesley.

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

Would I, 'Call-Me'?

Wriothesley is thrown.

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

(to Wriothesley)

Did we do such things?

WRIOTHESELEY

(Thrown)

I um...

He grinds to a halt.

CROMWELL

Shall we pass on? Would you like me to set the agenda and run the meeting? I believe you wanted to know about my wardrobe.

Riche shuffles through his papers nervously.

RICHARD RICHE

Yes, the doublet. Er, in the Cardinal's day you owned, and were seen to wear, a doublet of purple satin.

Cromwell has to fight the impulse to laugh.

(CONTINUED)

31

CONTINUED:

31

NORFOLK

What gave you the right to wear such a colour, hmm? It is the preserve of royal persons and high dignitaries of the church.

WRIOTHESEY

I saw it myself. And moreover, you had sables.

CROMWELL

I feel the cold.

(Then)

Do you know, it was a gift. A gift from a foreign client who did not know our rules.

GARDINER

If your client did not know the rules, you knew them.

NORFOLK

It was above your rank and station, to dress as if you were an earl already.

CROMWELL

That's true, but why would your lordship object, if the King did not? His Majesty would not like his ministers to go about in homespun.

(Amused)

Christ, Riche, is this the best you can do?

NORFOLK

The doublet. It's just a single example of your insensate and ungodly pride. It's not just your attire that offends. It's the way you talk. The way you put yourself forward: interrupt the King's discourse; interrupt me, for Christ's sake; scorn ambassadors, the envoys of great princes.

RICHARD RICHE

(over)

Er... yes.

(beat)

And speaking of ambassadors, you and Monsieur Chapuys are regularly...

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

GARDINER

(Over)
Not yet!

Riche shuffles his papers, disconcerted.

NORFOLK (V.O.)

You have been...

32 INT. OUTER ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER, LONDON - DAY 32

Later. Interrogation continuing. Norfolk now paces up and down by the window.

NORFOLK

... entrusted with high office and you scant the procedures that are laid down. You reach across and put your signature to some scrap of paper, and thousands are paid out without warrant. There is no part of the King's business you do not meddle in. You override the Council. You pull state policy out of your pocket. You read other men's letters. You corrupt their households to your own service. You take their duties out of their hands.

CROMWELL

I act when they should act but don't. Sometimes government has to accelerate. I cannot always wait for the slow grindings of your brain, my lord. We have to move in anticipation of events.

RICHARD RICHE

I do not see how. Unless you consult sorcerers.

CROMWELL

So, are we done with the doublet then?

A MESSENGER darts in with a letter for Norfolk. Norfolk takes it, returns to the table to read it. Cromwell glimpses the seal.

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

A letter from the French King, Norfolk?

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

NORFOLK

(Reading)

The King of France congratulates
our King on your putting down.

GARDINER

The French have much to tell us,
regarding your ambitions. Not to
mention your methods of discharging
our sovereign's trust.

Cromwell considers Norfolk. And suddenly understands
something.

CROMWELL

I see. This is where it began,
isn't it? You sojourn to France.
The French gave hints of an
alliance between our kingdoms,
something you and Gardiner have
long been urging on the King. But
there was a price. The price was me
and the King baulked at it.

GARDINER

Until now.

Norfolk is unabashed.

NORFOLK

The French prefer to deal with me,
my Lord.

CROMWELL

I'm sure they do. Why would they
not prefer a minister whom they can
bewilder and trick? And, if need
be, purchase.

Norfolk bridles. Riche is leafing through an old letter-book.

RICHARD RICHE

I'd like to take us back...

CROMWELL

(over)

Yes, I think you had better take us
back. You're in danger of proving
what a bad minister I have been for
the King of France.

He catches the eye of the new clerk, who sits recording
everything - and is rewarded by a flash of a smile.

(CONTINUED)

32

CONTINUED:

32

RICHARD RICHE

You made a great deal of money in
the Cardinal's day.

CROMWELL

Not so much from Wolsey, but from
my legal practice, yes.

RICHARD RICHE

How did you do that?

CROMWELL

Long hours.

RICHARD RICHE

Wolsey commonly enriched his
servants.

CROMWELL

He did, as Stephen here can
testify. But the Cardinal fell
from grace before his debts could
be paid.

(To Norfolk, pointed)

As you know, my lord, his enemies
laid hold of his assets. He cost
me money, in the end.

GARDINER

When you say his enemies, you mean
the King?

CROMWELL

Oh...

(laughs)

Give me credit, Gardiner. You don't
think I'll gratify you by calling
the King a thief? Wolsey had
enemies enough, in this very room.

RICHARD RICHE

But you adhered to him, even when
he was a proven traitor.

CROMWELL

What you call 'adherence,' the King
calls loyalty...

WRIOTHESELEY

It is true. I have, I've heard his
majesty say it.

Gardiner shoots Wriothesley a poisonous glance.

CROMWELL

(Forging on)

...The King regrets the Cardinal.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

32

CONTINUED:

32

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

He told me so. He misses him to
this very day.

Riche has been shuffling through his papers.

RICHARD RICHE

You wear a ring the Cardinal gave
you. It possessed certain
properties...

CROMWELL

You covet it, Ricardo? I'll give it
to you. It will save you from
drowning.

NORFOLK

You see, he admits it!

CROMWELL

It also preserves the wearer from
wild beasts and secures a Prince's
favour. It doesn't seem to be
working very well though, does it?

His interrogators reflect on this for a beat. Then:

RICHARD RICHE

It also, allegedly, makes
princesses fall in love with you.

CROMWELL

I'm turning them away daily.

RICHARD RICHE

Well, you didn't turn away Lady
Mary, did you?

The mood in the room changes. Cromwell stares at Riche.

RICHARD RICHE (CONT'D)

You presumed, and the King knows
it, to insinuate yourself with her,
to ingratiate yourself, so that she
referred to you as...

(Reading)

"My only friend".

CROMWELL

I was her only friend. Mary would
be dead, if I hadn't persuaded her
to obey her father.

GARDINER

And why were you so interested in
saving her life?

(CONTINUED)

32

CONTINUED:

32

CROMWELL

Perhaps because I am a Christian
man?

GARDINER

Perhaps because you thought she
would reward you.

NORFOLK

It was your dreadful presumption,
offensive to Almighty God, to
attempt to marry her!

RICHARD RICHE

Yes, and for instance, upon a
certain occasion, you were her
Valentine and you gave her a gift.

CROMWELL

(Impatient)

You know how this works, Riche. We
draw lots for the Valentines.

Wriothesley rouses himself.

WRIOTHESELEY

Yes, but you rigged the ballot. You
have often boasted of your ways to
manipulate elections of any sort.
Even the draw at a tournament. I
offer this, and my recollection is
perfectly clear, the day your son
made his debut in the field, you
said, 'Never fear, I can get you on
the King's team, and then you will
not have to run against His
Majesty.'

ON Cromwell, his mind racing.

CROMWELL

Gregory told you that?

WRIOTHESELEY

He told me that very day. You hurt
his pride.

CROMWELL

He spoke in innocence. And he spoke
to you, 'Call-Me', whom he took to
be his friend. But I suppose you
must use what you have. Valentines?
Sorceries? Purple doublets? Any
jury would laugh you out of court.

(Then)

But, then... there won't be a jury,
will there? There'll be no trial.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

You will pass a bill to make an end
of me and I cannot complain of the
process. I have used it myself.

Riche pushes on doggedly.

RICHARD RICHE

You gave Mary a ring in the summer
of 1536.

CROMWELL

It wasn't a lover's ring. It
was... it was a piece to wear
around her neck.

ON Cromwell, remembering.

33 OMITTED

33

34 OMITTED

34

35 OMITTED

35

36 INT. OUTER ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER, LONDON - DAY

36

THE PRESENT: BACK on Cromwell.

GARDINER

Why?

Cromwell closes his eyes. If it wasn't so serious, so
dangerous, this would all be ridiculous.

CROMWELL

Why what?

GARDINER

Why did she wear it around her
neck, and not on her finger?

CROMWELL

Because it was too heavy. There
were too many words.

NORFOLK

What words?

CROMWELL

Words enjoining obedience.

Gardiner pretends to be startled.

(CONTINUED)

36

CONTINUED:

36

GARDINER

You thought she should obey you?

CROMWELL

I thought she should obey her father. And I showed the object to His Majesty. He liked it so well, he took it for himself, to give to her.

WRIOTHESELEY

It's true, my lord. I was there.

RICHARD RICHE

Well, all the same, the volume of the correspondence with the lady, your manifest influence with her, the nature of the information she confides in you, information that related to her bodily matters...

CROMWELL

(Over)

You mean she told me she had a toothache?

RICHARD RICHE

Yes, headaches. She confided information proper for a physician to know. Not a stranger.

CROMWELL

I was hardly a stranger.

Riche takes up a letter.

RICHARD RICHE

(Reading)

"I do thank you with all my heart for the great pains you have had for me... I think myself very much bound to you... Your assured bound and loving friend throughout my life, Mary."...

CROMWELL

That's right. *Friend*.

RICHARD RICHE

(Continuing)

...And, in fact, she sent you gifts, didn't she? She gave you a pair of gloves. That signifies, 'hand-in-glove.' That signifies alliance. It signifies matrimony.

(CONTINUED)

CROMWELL

The King of France gave me gloves.
He didn't want to marry me.

NORFOLK

(Over)

It disgusts me, that a woman of
noble blood should lower herself.

GARDINER

(Sharply)

Do not blame the lady. Cromwell
made her believe only his own
person stood between herself and
death.

CROMWELL

Ah. There you have it. My 'person'.
It was my purple doublet, she
couldn't resist it.

GARDINER

Could a woman rule? Do you
remember the conversation?

NORFOLK

(Bursting in)

Yes! And you bursting in! "It
depends who she marries!"

RICHARD RICHE

And since that time you have
ensured the Lady Mary never makes a
marriage. All her suitors are sent
away!

NORFOLK

And I remember, when the King took
his fall at the joust...

WRIOTHESELEY

(Helpfully)

The 24th of January, 1536.

NORFOLK

...and he... he was carried to a
tent and lay on a bier either dead
or dying, all your concern was,
"Where is Mary?"

39 OMITTED

39

40 INT. OUTER ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER, LONDON - DAY
THE PRESENT: Cromwell, remembering that fateful day.

40

CROMWELL
I wanted to protect her.NORFOLK
From whom?CROMWELL
From you, my lord Norfolk. And from
your niece.

Norfolk seems wrong-footed. Gardiner steps in.

GARDINER
And if you had laid hands on her,
what would you have done?CROMWELL
You tell me. What makes the best
story? Do I seduce her? Did I
enforce her? Come on, Stephen - I
no more meant to marry her than you
did.GARDINER
(Icily)
Would you kindly address me as what
I am.

Cromwell grins, glad to have needled him.

CROMWELL
I beg your pardon, my lord Bishop.GARDINER
Leave aside marriage. There are
other means of control. The King
believes you meant to place Mary on
the throne and rule through her.
And to this end you cultivated your
friendship with Chapuys, the
Emperor's man.WRIOTHESLEY
Yes, he dined with you twice in the
week.CROMWELL
Well, you should know. You were at
the table.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

WRIOTHESESLEY

He was your confidante and your friend.

CROMWELL

I don't have any confidantes and few friends. Till yesterday, I counted you amongst them.

This remark lands hard with Wriothesley.

GARDINER

At your house at Austin Friars, you conferred with Chapuys in the tower. You made him certain promises about Mary, her future estate.

LEAD a rumble of thunder.

41 OMITTED

41

42 INT. OUTER ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER, LONDON - DAY

42

CROMWELL

I made no promises.

GARDINER

Chapuys thought you did. *Mary* thought you did.

CROMWELL

How would you know? You weren't even in the realm at the time.

Gardiner smirks, looks across the table to Wriothesley.

43 OMITTED

43

44 INT. OUTER ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER, LONDON - DAY

44

Cromwell's cold stare at Wriothesley.

CROMWELL

Well, well, you strain my charity, Wriothesley. When I am set at large, I will try not to hold these things against you.

Wriothesley can't hold the gaze. His face burning, he looks down.

(CONTINUED)

GARDINER

Let us pursue the matter of your marriage further. The Lady Mary was not your only prospect. You took care that Lady Margaret Douglas was preserved, though guilty of wilful disobedience to the King.

ON Wriothesley, delighted to retake the initiative.

WRIOTHESELEY

Yes, I uncovered that whole affair and you talked it away, as if it were nothing.

CROMWELL

No, not nothing. Her sweetheart 'Tom Truth,' was executed.

(To Norfolk)

Your brother. I am sorry I could not save them both.

But Norfolk is not to be so easily won over.

NORFOLK

You put her under a debt of gratitude. The King's niece. What was she to you, but another path to the throne? "If I were King," is a phrase often in your mouth.

GARDINER

You, a manifest traitor, who offered to meet the King in battle?

CROMWELL

What?

RICHARD RICHE

Let me remind you. You were heard by a witness here, at the Tower, to utter certain treasonable words: that you would maintain your own opinion in religion. That you would never allow the King to return to Rome, and... these are the words alleged, that: 'If he would turn, yet I would not turn; and I would take the field against him, my sword in my hand.'

46

INT. OUTER ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER, LONDON - DAY

46

Cromwell, struggling with the memory of his uncharacteristic recklessness.

RICHARD RICHE

And you accompanied these words
with certain... certain belligerent
gestures.

Cromwell tries to regain the initiative.

CROMWELL

Is this likely? That I, even if I
had such thoughts, that I would
speak this out in public? And where
has this witness been since last
year? If I spoke treason, is he not
culpable for concealing it? I look
forward to seeing them in chains.

He stares pointed at Wriothesley.

NORFOLK

You admit it is treason?

CROMWELL

(Patiently)

Yes, my lord, but I do not admit to
saying it. How would I make good
such a threat? How could I
possibly overthrow the King?

NORFOLK

Perhaps with the help of the
Emperor? You still have contact
with his man, Chapuys, do you not?
I hear he plans to return.

CROMWELL

Oh, dear, he'll have to find
somewhere else to have his dinner.

RICHARD RICHE

Why do we concern ourselves with
Chapuys. It is much worse than
that, as all will attest who were
in your garden at Austin Friars,
the day the King met his daughter.
You had secret dealings with
Katherine. Dealings to do with
Mary. And that evening you
confessed as much to all present.

47

OMITTED

47

48

INT. OUTER ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER, LONDON - DAY

48

Cromwell, quietly furious now.

CROMWELL

Even if I did, my you've known
about this a long time, Riche. What
stopped you from speaking out?

Riche can't meet his eye.

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

I'll tell you what. Advantage. Your
own advantage kept you mute. Until
advantage was greater on the other
side. What promise have I...

(shouts)

Look at me!

Riche looks at Cromwell.

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

What promise have I made to you,
Riche, that I have not kept? And
what promises have you made to me?

NORFOLK

You should not speak of promises.
The King hates a man who breaks his
word. You said you would kill the
pretender, Reginald Pole.

GARDINER

Yes. And not a drop of his blood
is shed.

ON Cromwell. Now we come to it. This is why Henry faults him. This is where he has failed. Gardiner smiles at him, knowing he has him. After a beat, Gardiner stands, gathers his papers. Riche looks taken aback by the sudden termination, then gathers his papers - as do the others. Gardiner turns back at the door, as if an afterthought.

GARDINER (CONT'D)

The King's so called marriage. His
majesty says you know more of the
matter than any man except himself.
You are to give a full account.

Everyone else has now left the room - apart from Wriothesley, who lingers by the door. Cromwell nods.

GARDINER (CONT'D)

Omit nothing. From your first
negotiations with Cleves to the
night of the supposed marriage.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

48

CONTINUED:

48

GARDINER (CONT'D)

You must set forth all you heard of the lady's pre-contract, and record faithfully what you know of the King's dislike and unwillingness to the marriage. You must write the truth on the damnation of your soul. You will be required to take an oath.

CROMWELL

I have a son, a nephew, my nephew has heirs - all of whom I wish to preserve. Why would I refuse? I would also take an oath that I am a true servant of the King. It is strange, don't you think, that my word should hold good in the one matter, but not the other?

GARDINER

Well, you are a dying man. They are generally known not to lie.

They observe each other for a beat.

CROMWELL

Leave it with me, my lord Bishop. Now kick yourself out.

Gardiner sweeps from the room. Wriothesley lets him pass, then moves back towards Cromwell, unsteady on his feet.

WRIOTHESELEY

Sir...

CROMWELL

Save your breath.

Wriothesley starts to leave again, then:

WRIOTHESELEY

Norfolk wants them to hang you at Tyburn like a common thief. To pull your bowels out. He wants you to suffer the most painful death the law affords. He is set on it.

CROMWELL

You seem set on it yourself.

WRIOTHESELEY

No. In no way, sir. In no way. I can do no other than I do, I assure you. But I want to see you treated with honour. If needs be, I shall petition the King.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED:

48

CROMWELL

Christ, 'Call-Me', stand up straight. How do you think you will fare with Henry these next few years, if you are cringing and whining in the presence of a man whom, you say yourself, is doomed?

WRIOTHESLEY

(Low, urgent)

Well, I trust not, sir. The King tells me that you could write to him. Do it tonight.

49 INT. INNER ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER, LONDON - NIGHT

49

Night. FIND Cromwell, seated at a small desk in the royal apartment. He is writing his letter to Henry by candlelight. He pauses, lost in MEMORY.

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Wolsey paces back and forth. Two men watch in background.

WOLSEY (V.O.)

I feel... cast off.

INT. WOLSEY'S CHAMBERS - DAY

Cromwell stands over Wolsey as he lays in bed.

WOLSEY

(to Cromwell)

But I still love him.

50 OMITTED

50

INT. INNER ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER, LONDON - NIGHT

THE PRESENT: Cromwell sits remembering.

INT. LEICESTER ABBEY - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Cavendish and a Priest stand at Wolsey's deathbed. The priest performs the Last Rites.

INT. INNER ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER, LONDON - NIGHT

THE PRESENT: Cromwell grows emotional as he remembers. A tear drop falls on his letter. Cromwell wipes his eyes.

INT. 2ND CLOISTER, SHAFTESBURY ABBEY - NIGHT (NIGHTMARE)

We track Abbess down the cloister. She stops and looks towards us. Continue past Abbess towards background archway.

INT. QUIRE, SHAFTESBURY ABBEY - NIGHT (NIGHTMARE)

Move in on Dorothea, facing away.

EXECUTIONER (V.O.)
A porter l'épée!

Dorothea spins around towards us.

51 OMITTED 51

52 OMITTED 52

53 EXT. SCAFFOLD, THE TOWER - DAY 53

FLASHBACK - Episode 106 Scene 52: Anne Boleyn's execution. The Executioner swings the sword.

Cromwell and Gregory watch from the crowd.

54 OMITTED 54

55 INT. BEDROOM, ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER - NIGHT 55

THE PRESENT: Cromwell wakes from his NIGHTMARE with a CRY. He stares around him, disorientated. Moonlight bathes his bedroom in the royal apartment.

He flops back down on the bed, drenched in sweat.

LEAD the sound of a HEAVY DOOR unlocking.

56 INT. INNER ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER, LONDON - DAY 56

The royal apartment door opens and Rafe enters. FIND Cromwell at the window. Daylight streams in. Cromwell turns - a brief flare of hope.

RAFE
(Reading his expression)
I have no new instructions, sir.

CROMWELL
But yet he permits you to visit me
still. That's a hopeful sign.

(CONTINUED)

56

CONTINUED:

56

Rafe holds out a folded sheet.

RAFE

It's Cranmer's letter to the King.

Cromwell takes it, walks back to the window, starts to read.

CROMWELL

(Reading aloud)

“...he that was so advanced by your majesty; he who so loved your majesty, as I ever thought, no less than God;... He that cared for no man's displeasure to serve your majesty; he that was such a servant, in my judgment, in wisdom, diligence, faithfulness and experience, as no prince in this realm ever had... I loved him as my friend, for so I took him to be. But now...”

(To Rafe)

Here it comes. On the one hand, on the other...

(Reading)

“...But now, if he be a traitor, I am sorry that I ever loved or trusted him...”

(to Rafe)

Huh.

(Reading)

“But, yet again, I am very sorrowful... Who will your majesty trust hereafter, if you cannot trust him?”

He folds the letter carefully, puts it aside.

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

It's better than I expected.

RAFE

(Bitterly)

He should have got himself to the King's presence. If the Archbishop were in peril of his life, would you have stood by? I don't think you would.

Cromwell picks up the letter he has been writing to the King, examines it for a beat.

CROMWELL

The King has permitted me to write to him which is another hopeful sign. Will you make sure that it gets to him.

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED:

56

He holds it out to Rafe. Rafe takes it. Then:

RAFE

'Call-Me' has moved into Austin
Friars.

Cromwell's face falls. This is unexpected, and bad news.

RAFE (CONT'D)

The King has ordered him to
dissolve the household.

Cromwell grasps Rafe's hand.

CROMWELL

Don't give up, Rafe. Don't give up.
We do not yield. We hold on. We
hold on.

Rafe nods, rallying.

57 OMITTED

57

58 INT. OUTER ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER, LONDON - DAY 58

Later. Interrogation continuing.

RICHARD RICHE

Your household falls little short
of three thousand persons, does it
not? It is the household of a
prince.

CROMWELL

Three thousand? With that number,
I'd be bankrupt. Every man in
England has applied to me these
seven years, to take his son into
my service. I take who I can. For
the most part their fathers pay
their keep, so you cannot say I
employ them.

GARDINER

You talk as if they were all meek
scribblers. But it is well-known
that you take in runaway
apprentices, roisterers,
ruffians...

CROMWELL

Roaring boys such as Richard Riche
here was once, in days he'd rather
forget. Yeah, I don't deny.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

58

CONTINUED:

58

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

I give a second life to those who have the enterprise to knock upon my gates. Any chancer has a chance with me.

The clerk tries to suppress a smile but Riche catches it. He stares hard at Cromwell.

RICHARD RICHE

You owned some um... some three hundred handguns... I have the inventories for Austin Friars here. Three hundred handguns, four hundred pikes, near eight hundred bows. It's... it's enough for an army... and er, and I have heard you say, and... and... and Wriothesley will bear me out, that you had a bodyguard of three hundred that would come to your whistle, day or night.

GARDINER

Wriothesley?

WRIOTHESELEY

It is um... true. I have heard you say it.

Cromwell stares at Wriothesley, trying to control his temper.

CROMWELL

When the northern rebels were up, I felt ashamed that I could not turn out enough men of mine own. So like any loyal subject who has means, I augmented my resources.

NORFOLK

Oh, you prate of loyalty! You, a manifest traitor who would have sold the King to heretics!

CROMWELL

I, a traitor.

(Shakes his head)

Look to the Poles and Courtenays for treason, my lord. Not to me, who owes everything I have to the King. Look to those who think it's their natural right to sweep him aside. To those who think his family's rule a mere interruption to their own.

ON Cromwell, sorrow and despair finally getting the better of him.

(CONTINUED)

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

You people. What will you do without me? You will read the lines as written, but you will never read between them. The French Ambassador will make fools of you, and Chapuys too, if he returns. Within a year the King will be fighting the Scots, or the French, or likely both, and he will bankrupt us. None of you... none of you... can manage matters like I can. And the King will quarrel with you, all of you. You'll quarrel with each other. In a year's time, if you sacrifice me, you will have neither honest coin or honest minister.

A distant bell begins to toll. Others join, across the city. Cromwell smiles wryly.

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

But when the hour strikes, and the bell rings, you've had the best of it, haven't you? What's left is like a... a sucked plum stone on the side of a plate.

WRIOTHESELEY

(Concerned)

Lord Cromwell is not well. We should perhaps pause.

Cromwell looks at Wriothesley, surprised by his intervention.

NORFOLK

(Over)

Oh, I think he is fit enough. It is not as if he has endured any pains, which are spared him, at the King's direction, even though he is not of noble blood and deserves no such consideration.

Norfolk heads for the door, PAUSES then TURNS - anger and contempt certainly, but also something more complex, shading almost into sympathy.

NORFOLK (CONT'D)

What will we do without you? What will we do without your wisdom? Wash your eyes clean, Cromwell! Do you think the King ever loved you? No. To him you were an instrument. A device. We are no more to him than an engine of war. Or a dog.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

58

CONTINUED:

58

NORFOLK (CONT'D)

A dog who has served him through the hunting season. What do you do with a dog at the end of the season? You hang it.

Their eyes meet for a beat, before Norfolk leaves. Wriothesley and Riche exchange a look with Gardiner. He indicates they should follow, together with the clerk. But, unexpectedly, Gardiner remains. He seems strangely reluctant to leave.

CROMWELL

What has happened to the Queen?

GARDINER

Er... the lady of Cleves has already left the court. The King has sent her to Richmond and he has promised to join her there. But of course, he will not.

CROMWELL

No. When he turns his face from you, he rarely turns back.

GARDINER

Hmm.

They exchange a look - a charged moment, given Cromwell's current situation. Then:

CROMWELL

Getting the wife used to be one of my tasks. It falls to you now, does it?

Gardiner doesn't reply.

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

I suppose it would be Norfolk's niece.

GARDINER

Giddy little creature. Very pleased with her great fortune. Still, not for me to question the King's choice.

CROMWELL

(Smiling)

Bear that in mind, and you'll go far.

(Then)

Of course she's giddy, at that age? You wouldn't want her to think too much. History is against her.

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED:

58

Gardiner nods thoughtfully.

GARDINER

I fear it's against us all.

And for a moment the two sit in an almost companionable silence.

58A INT. INNER ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER, LONDON - NIGHT

58A

Night. FIND Cromwell at the small desk, writing. He is wrapped up against the cold.

INT. AUSTIN FRIARS - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

It's the night of Gregory's wedding. Cromwell sits beside Gregory.

INT. ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER, LONDON - NIGHT

THE PRESENT: Cromwell sits remembering.

CROMWELL (V.O.)

(to Gregory)

I'm a man of honor. I mean, I'm a man of my word.

GREGORY (V.O.)

So many words.

INT. AUSTIN FRIARS - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Gregory speaks to Cromwell.

GREGORY

You do everything. You have everything. You are everything. So I beg you, Father, grant me an inch of your broad earth and leave my wife to me.

Gregory leaves.

59 OMITTED

59 *

60 OMITTED

60

61 OMITTED

61

62

INT. INNER ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER, LONDON - NIGHT

62

THE PRESENT: ON Cromwell, remembering.

SUFFOLK (O.C.)

Cromwell?

Cromwell looks up. Suffolk has entered while he has been remembering.

CROMWELL

My lord of Suffolk.

Suffolk's imposing bulk casts alarming shadows in the candlelight. He paces for a moment, then sits on an incongruously small stool, his knees at his chin.

Suffolk notices the triptych, painted for Anne Boleyn.

SUFFOLK

Is she behind there? The other one?

CROMWELL

Boleyn? No, my lord. She lies at rest in the chapel nearby. As for the painting, yes, I painted her out. I changed the hair... and the eyes.

SUFFOLK

Personally?

CROMWELL

No, my lord. I had a professional do it.

Suffolk nods, absently.

SUFFOLK

Look here, Crumb this is my advice. Confess you are a heretic. Say you were misled. Ask Harry to see you face-to-face and reason with you, bring you back to true religion. He'd like that, wouldn't he? You remember how he enjoyed himself, at the trial of that fellow Lambert?

CROMWELL

Lambert was burned.

Suffolk remembers, looks deflated.

SUFFOLK

Oh. So he was.

(Then)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED:

62

SUFFOLK (CONT'D)

Well, that was my idea, and now
I've delivered it, so I er...

He makes a vague gesture, but still doesn't stand.

CROMWELL

You're a good fellow, Charles. I'd
rob a house with you, if I had to.

Suffolk looks surprised but also pleased at this.

SUFFOLK

Have you robbed many houses?

CROMWELL

In my wild days...

SUFFOLK

Oh.

CROMWELL

... you know.

SUFFOLK

Oh, we've all had those.

CROMWELL

I wouldn't rob a house with the
King. You'd say to him, "Stand
there, and whistle if the watch
comes," and at the first footfall
he'd scamper off and leave you to
it, your leg over the sill.

SUFFOLK

I don't think he'd go robbing, in
all conscience. He'd be breaching
his own peace, wouldn't he? And
who would he rob? He can take all
our goods if he likes, pauperise
the lot of us.

They sit for a moment. Finally Suffolk stands, heads for the door. He turns back suddenly, extends a vast paw.

SUFFOLK (CONT'D)

Your hand?

Cromwell gives it. Suffolk pummels his shoulder. And then he's gone.

HENRY (V.O.)

Read it again, Sadler.

64	OMITTED	64
65	OMITTED	65
66	OMITTED	66
67	INT. KING'S INNER PRIVY CHAMBER, HAMPTON COURT PALACE - DAY	67

RAFE'S MEMORY (NEW MATERIAL): Henry stares at us, moved. A beat. Then:

RAFE
The whole, sir?

HENRY
No, you may omit the accounting of the Cleves marriage. Read from where he begins his pleas.

Rafe stands before the King, holding Cromwell's letter.

RAFE
(Reading)
"Most gracious and most merciful sovereign lord, beseeching almighty God to counsel you, preserve you, maintain you, remedy you and defend you, as may be most to the comfort of your heart's desires. God so help me in this mine adversity, and confound me if ever I thought the contrary."

Silence. Henry seems close to tears. Rafe watches him, barely daring to breathe, trying to choose with exactness the right moment.

RAFE (CONT'D)
(Softly)
It takes but one word, sir.

Henry doesn't seem to have heard, then he stirs.

HENRY
Yes, I could free Cromwell, could I not? I could restore him tomorrow.

RAFE
The French would be amazed, sir.

HENRY
But you know, he has never forgave me for Wolsey.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

67

CONTINUED:

67

HENRY (CONT'D)

And I have long wondered, to what extremity will sorrow lead him? Bishop Gardiner says the Cardinal himself might forgive but the Cardinal's man never will.

RAFE

The Earl is reconciled. He has let the Cardinal go.

HENRY

Read the part where he says he would make me live ever young.

RAFE

"For if it were in my power, as it is in God's, to make your majesty to live ever young and prosperous, God knoweth I would."

HENRY

But he cannot, can he?
(Then)
Go on.

Rafe scans to find the most telling section, then:

RAFE

"Beseeching, most humbly, your majesty to pardon this, my rude writing, and to consider that I am a most woeful prisoner, ready to take the death when it shall please God and your majesty. Yet the frail flesh incites me continually to call to your majesty to pardon my offences. Written the Tower, this Wednesday the last of June. With the heavy heart and trembling hand of your highness's most miserable prisoner and poor slave. I cry for mercy, mercy, mercy."

Henry has been listening transfixed. He wipes a tear from his eye.

HENRY

Thank you for your patience,
Sadler.

RAFE

(Beat)

I was well trained sir, by a patient man.

Henry smiles.

(CONTINUED)

RAFE (V.O.)

For a moment... just a moment... I thought perhaps... But then he just said:

HENRY

You can leave me now.

Rafe makes to leave.

CROMWELL (V.O.)

You did well, Rafe.

Rafe shuts the door after him.

FIND Cromwell, listening to Rafe's account. He nods.

CROMWELL

You did more than I had any right to expect.

Rafe watches him, senses the change in him - the acceptance, the resignation.

RAFE

When I was a little child... you came for me, brought me on a journey. You set me by the fire and said, "This is where you live now, Rafe. We will be your family now..."

He's starting to cry now.

RAFE (CONT'D)

...we will be good to you, never fear." I had just left my mother that day and I did not know where I was. I had never seen London, still less your house, but I never cried, did I? I never cried.

For a moment he can't speak for his sobs. Cromwell crosses to him and takes him in his arms. Rafe's thin body shakes.

Cromwell holds him until the sobbing subsides.

CROMWELL

It is time that Gregory wrote a letter repudiating me. He should speak ill of me. Say he doesn't know how he came to be related to such a traitor.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

68 CONTINUED:

68

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

He should plead for the chance to
redeem my errors and crimes, by
serving his majesty in the years to
come.

Rafe wipes the tears angrily from his face.

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

I couldn't do it again, you know,
Rafe. I couldn't. The sleepless
toil, the axe-work. When Henry
dies and goes to judgment, he will
answer for me. And he will have to
account for what he did to
Cromwell.

(Then)

Now, it's time for you to go.

Cromwell holds Rafe one last time before he leaves.

69 OMITTED

69

70 OMITTED

70

71 OMITTED

71

72 INT. INNER ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER, LONDON - NIGHT

72

ON Cromwell, sitting alone in silence by candlelight.
Kingston enters, carrying a lantern.

KINGSTON

Sir, the King grants you mercy as
to the manner of your death. It's
to be the axe, and may I say that I
rejoiced when I...

He stops, embarrassed.

KINGSTON (CONT'D)

I beg your lordship's pardon. I
mean to say, your lordship has
often sought such mercy for others,
and seldom failed.

CROMWELL

Will it be tomorrow?

Kingston hesitates.

KINGSTON

If your lordship were to say his
prayers tonight, it would be well.

(CONTINUED)

72 CONTINUED:

72

Kingston is about to leave, but he hesitates.

KINGSTON (CONT'D)

(Reluctantly)

The Duke of Norfolk has asked your lordship be informed, the King marries Catherine Howard tomorrow.

73 OMITTED

73

74 OMITTED

74

75 INT. INNER ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER, LONDON - DAWN

75

Cromwell stands quietly and crosses to the table, stares down at his books, which have been tied into parcels. He neatens the piles. Then, on some impulse, he turns...

Cardinal Wolsey stands in the corner of the room, watching him. The moment hangs.

CROMWELL

(Softly)

Where have you been?

WOLSEY

I don't know, Thomas. I'd tell you if I could.

76 INT/EXT. GREAT HALL/INNER WARD, THE TOWER - DAY

76

ON Cromwell, being taken across the deserted Great Hall and out into the courtyard by Kingston and Martin. At the door, they pause.

KINGSTON

This is where I leave you, my lord.

(Almost overcome)

Godspeed.

Cromwell inclines his head in acknowledgement. Martin moves him on. As they emerge into the daylight, SHERIFFS fold around them. Cromwell squints at the sudden brightness.

76A EXT. INNER WARD, TOWER OF LONDON - DAY

76A

TRACK ON with Cromwell, Martin and the sheriffs across the inner ward. Christophe hurries alongside.

(CONTINUED)

76A CONTINUED:

76A

CHRISTOPHE

Master! I have a medal. It is a holy medal, my mother gave it to me. Take it for the love of Christ.

The sheriffs are moving Cromwell forward.

CROMWELL

I do not need an image. I shall see God's face.

CHRISTOPHE

(Upset)

Sir, she is waiting for it. Take it back to her.

Cromwell stops and inclines his head for the medal to be hung on him. Martin moves him gently on, leaving Christophe behind.

CHRISTOPHE (CONT'D)

Thank you, master.

CROMWELL

Now follow on behind. No fighting.
No fighting!

ON Christophe, watching Cromwell being led away towards the gate.

77

OMITTED

77

79

INT. INNER ROYAL APARTMENT, THE TOWER, LONDON - DAWN

79

CROMWELL'S MEMORY (NEW MATERIAL): Cromwell and Wolsey sit in silence for a beat, then:

CROMWELL

Your daughter thinks I betrayed you. I did not. I hope I did not.

WOLSEY

Well, I dare say daughters sometimes get things wrong.

He doesn't look convinced. Cromwell reaches deep inside himself, trying to be honest at the last. Did he?

78

EXT. TOWER HILL - DAY

78

THE PRESENT: An incredible BARRAGE OF SOUND. Hundreds of GUARDS hold back the VAST CROWD, some on tiered stands, gathered for the execution.

(CONTINUED)

78 CONTINUED:

78

Cromwell's escort tightens around him as he WALKS ON. Somewhere in the crowd, a drum is being played. He tilts his head to locate it....

80 OMITTED

80

81 INT. LONG GALLERY, HAMPTON COURT PALACE - DAY

81

Henry stands at a window, deep in thought. He turns.

INSERT HENRY'S POV: Norfolk and Gardiner stand nearby, clutching papers they are clearly eager to discuss.

Henry ignores them. He turns back to the window, looks out.

EXT. TOWER HILL - DAY

Cromwell is led towards the scaffold.

82 INT. ROOM - DAY

82

Bess approaches with a glass of wine. She hands it to Gregory, who sits alone by the fire. Her sad smile.

ON Gregory - staring into the middle distance, lost.

EXT. THE SCAFFOLD, TOWER HILL - DAY

Cromwell is escorted through the crowd to the scaffold.

83 EXT. BATTLEMENTS, CASTLE - DAY

83

FIND Richard Cromwell, standing alone on the battlements of a castle. He stares out across open country.

FIND his face - he's crying. He wipes away the tears furiously.

EXT. THE SCAFFOLD, TOWER HILL - DAY

Cromwell is escorted towards the scaffold. The Executioner is seen waiting.

84 INT. QUEEN'S PRIVY CHAMBER, HAMPTON COURT PALACE - DAY

84

FIND Catherine Howard, being fitted for her wedding dress, prattling senselessly away, surrounded by Lady Margaret Douglas, Mary Fitzroy and her other LADIES. Her words are INAUDIBLE.

(CONTINUED)

84

CONTINUED:

84

DEVELOP to FIND the lady Mary, standing alone nearby. She stares at Catherine, lost in thought, then turns and exits unnoticed.

EXT. THE SCAFFOLD, TOWER HILL - DAY

Cromwell starts ascending the scaffold steps followed by Martin.

85

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

85

Wriothesley is seated at Cromwell's bare desk, staring into space. The room has been stripped of all but the furniture. All Cromwell's pictures, papers and possessions are gone.

After a beat, Wriothesley plunges his head into his hands.

86

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

86

Alone in the King's Outer Privy Chamber, Rafe turns to face the wall, balances his head against it. He begins to sob.

87

OMITTED

87

88

OMITTED

88

89

EXT. THE SCAFFOLD, TOWER HILL - DAY

89

Cromwell turns to face the EXECUTIONER. He takes in the axe, the nervous look in the man's eye.

CROMWELL
(to Executioner)
You alright?

The Executioner nods.

CROMWELL (CONT'D)
Don't be afraid to strike. You'll
not help me, or yourself, by
hesitating.

The Executioner nods again. Cromwell drops a coin into his waiting hand. He turns towards the waiting crowd.

CROMWELL (CONT'D)
I come here to die. Not to excuse
myself. I have lived a sinner and
offended my lord God, for the which
I heartily ask for His pardon.
(beat)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

89 CONTINUED:

89

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

Many of you will know that I have been a great traveller in this world and, being but of base degree, have been called to high estate... Since that time...

A FLASH OF RED, Cromwell turns, trying to locate it. The crowd reacts.

INSERT CROMWELL'S POV: Wolsey is watching him.

BACK ON Cromwell. He TURNS slightly, addressing Wolsey directly - eye to eye.

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

Since that time I have injured and offended my Master, for the which I ask heartily for his forgiveness. And beseech you all to pray to God, with me, that he will forgive me.

The crowd thinks that Cromwell is begging forgiveness from the King. But Cromwell is staring directly at Wolsey, begging forgiveness from his former master.

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

Oh, Father, forgive me.

Cromwell makes the sign of the cross.

Cromwell eases his head onto the block. The crowd kneels. Some avert their eyes.

The Executioner raises the axe.

LEAD the SOUND OF BEES BUZZING...

HARD CUT TO:

90 OMITTED

90

91 OMITTED

91

92 EXT. LAUNDE ABBEY - DAY

92

TRACK with Cromwell through the beautiful gardens at Launde, beehives to the left and right. The BUZZING intensifies.

CROMWELL (V.O.)

There is an abbey, Launde, in the heart of England.

93 OMITTED

93

94 EXT. LAUNDE ABBEY - DAY

94

TRACK with Cromwell as he approaches the abbey. The BUZZING is very strong now.

CROMWELL (V.O.)

The air is always sweet there. And it's quiet. A little heaven here on earth.

95 OMITTED

95

96 EXT. LAUNDE ABBEY - DAY

96

Cromwell has reached the abbey buildings. He turns back TOWARDS CAMERA, his face bathed in sunshine.

CROMWELL (V.O.)

And I'd think to myself, I'll live here one day. When all my work is done.

CUT TO BLACK.

FINIS.