

Becoming Elizabeth

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Season 1: Sex & Power

Episode One

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Elizabeth I. An icon. England's most successful ruler.

We think we know her - the Virgin Queen, the white face powder, the Spanish Armada, *Gloriana*. We don't.

When we meet her, Elizabeth is alone, a teenager, and an orphan. On the throne, her ten year old brother, Edward. Two children at the heart of the Tudor court.

Elizabeth's story starts with a sexual relationship with her stepfather that is well documented but has never been explored on screen, and which can only be described as grooming.

The sexual politics and the power structures are striking and resonant. It is an affair for which *she* will be blamed, while her step-mother, Catherine Parr, sticks her head in the sand and sides with her husband.

Elizabeth has been raised as a royal but kept uncertain of her status, both politically and in her father's affections. Her only family is her ten year old brother, King Edward, and her sister, Mary, and she is a child, operating in an adult world. This makes her uniquely vulnerable.

The affair is transformative for her, leading to a nervous breakdown and informing her view of power, sex, and of herself as a woman.

Elizabeth's story, and the story of those who surrounded her, is a story of ambition, plotting and betrayal. It is visceral, dangerous, and very bloody.

It is a story in which a succession of women – Elizabeth, Mary, Catherine Parr, Lady Jane Grey, and later Mary Queen of Scots – struggle to control their destiny and take real power as the men around them attempt to use them.

And it is a story in which every man or woman, including Elizabeth herself, is on the wheel of fortune, which may take them to a position of great power one moment, or the executioner's block the next. It does so swiftly, and often.

No-one is safe.

THOMAS SEYMOUR, 38, handsome and wildly irrational, is grinning wide and an inch from his brother **SOMERSET**'s face. He is trying to will the truth out of him with a smirk.

THOMAS

Is he?

SOMERSET is annoyed and pushes him aside and follows after a waiting **JOHN DUDLEY**. **THOMAS** turns back to **CATHERINE** and pulls a playful face of 'maybe'. **THOMAS** looks after **DUDLEY** and **SOMERSET**, he shouts excitedly and expansively;

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Is he!?

THOMAS is silhouetted against a window in the corridor, open armed, shouting after them in vain.

10 **INT. COUNTRY CHURCH - NIGHT**

10

Music continues.

We see a dog lapping up blood from under the coffin that is leaking onto the floor. More dogs appear. It's a carnivore's feast as the dogs drink up the red pool.

11 **INT. PALACE OF WHITEHALL - NIGHT**

11

Music continues.

We follow in behind the siblings **PRINCESS ELIZABETH** and **PRINCE EDWARD** as they enter a crowded solemn room. **DUDLEY**, **SOMERSET**, **THOMAS**, **CATHERINE** and their sister the **PRINCESS MARY TUDOR**, 31 tense, anxious and earnest, turn to face them. **MARY** looks to the children and their **SERVANTS** entering, this is confirmation of what she feared, she nods to **SOMERSET**.

MARY

Well, Lord Somerset?

We see **SOMERSET**, impassive and emotionless, **CATHERINE** and **THOMAS** are behind him watching urgently. **SOMERSET** takes a beat. Slowly **SOMERSET** bends to one knee in front of **EDWARD**. **THOMAS** and **CATHERINE** exchange a look as **MARY** is shook. **ELIZABETH** looks between her sister and brother alarmed as **EDWARD** looks to the kneeling man, bewildered. Behind the Tudors, **DUDLEY** calmly announces from the back;

DUDLEY

The King is dead.

SOMERSET

Long live King Edward.

SOMERSET's eyes lift to the boy in front of him. **EDWARD** is horrified and looks to **ELIZABETH**.

12 INT. COUNTRY CHURCH - NIGHT

12

Music continues.

We are high above coffin which is open now. We see the bloated, stiff, almost disfigured in death, face of HENRY VIII staring up at us. We zoom up and away from it as the dogs drink the blood. We pull back further than it feels the small church roof should allow until we suddenly...

CUT TO BLACK.

Our golden title '**YOUNG ELIZABETH**' flashes up. We have a disclaimer which also slowly appears underneath; '**A True Story**'. Both disappear suddenly along with the music.

13 INT. HATFIELD HOUSE - DAY

13

SERVANTS bustle about busily packing things away, in the centre ELIZABETH stands watching her life being bundled up. KAT is packing up some delicate pieces at ELIZABETH's feet, she is distracted.

KAT

I've always thought Queen Catherine
a most gracious lady, to take you
into her home -

ELIZABETH

She's not the queen anymore.

KAT

(dismissively)
Nonsense dear, once a queen always
a queen.

ELIZABETH

Till you lose your head, or are
shipped away or -

KAT

There is melancholy in you, I
suppose your father's death weighs
on you.

ELIZABETH

(hard)
As does the target that his death
has placed on my back.

KAT stands to address ELIZABETH kindly...

KAT

Elizabeth -

19

INT. PALACE OF WHITEHALL, CORRIDOR - DAY

19

The OLD SERVANT listens lecherously at the door. The first SERVANT ignores this, watching the ceiling instead. The screams inside the chamber get louder, the OLD SERVANT grins. Suddenly silence. The OLD SERVANT listens closer, wondering why it has suddenly stopped, the first SERVANT hesitates. They look to one another when the door is opened by a naked THOMAS. He looks down to see the OLD SERVANT listening at his chest. He hastily shuffles away, THOMAS looks to his SERVANT.

THOMAS

Drink.

The SERVANT nods and heads off, THOMAS looks after the eavesdropping OLD SERVANT with mild amusement. From inside;

CATHERINE (O.S.)

Thomas.

THOMAS turns back.

20

INT. PALACE OF WHITEHALL, CHAMBER - DAY

20

THOMAS shuts the door and grins to CATHERINE and returns to the bed. He kisses her all over.

CATHERINE

Did you send your man for wine?

THOMAS

(teasing)

Did the old king make you scream like that?

CATHERINE

Stop it.

THOMAS

You'd think he'd had enough practise. Did his servants have to hold him up for you Catherine?

CATHERINE

Stop.

CATHERINE takes his face, THOMAS obeys.

THOMAS

Did he, ever, though?

CATHERINE

What?

THOMAS

Did he ever *touch* you?

CATHERINE
I'd have cut it off.

THOMAS grins and falls into bed beside her.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
No one would think that he would have, would they? The state of him, he couldn't. Everyone will know that. The council isn't going to make us wait is it?

THOMAS
Wait for what?

CATHERINE
For our marriage.

THOMAS
Of course they are. You could be pregnant, you could -

CATHERINE
(horrified)
They had to make a special coffin for him, a reinforced coffin, as if anyone could think... The servants could bear witness, could -

THOMAS
Tell the council that the king couldn't fuck his own wife? Do be sensible my love.

THOMAS throws CATHERINE back down and kisses her.

21

INT. PALACE OF WHITEHALL, CORRIDOR - DAY

21

The SERVANT was returning with wine and glasses, he finds his way barred, he looks up to find the obstacle is JOHN DUDLEY.

DUDLEY
Who's he with?

SERVANT
My master?

DUDLEY
No the cook's cousin, of course your master. Who's he with?

SERVANT
I'm, I'm not sure Lord Dudley.

DUDLEY leans in threateningly.

SERVANT (CONT'D)
The Queen, Lord Dudley.

DUDLEY
The what?

SERVANT
Well the Queen, former queen -

DUDLEY
Catherine fucking Parr?

The SERVANT cautiously sidesteps DUDLEY who's mind is whirring at this development.

22

INT. PALACE OF WHITEHALL, CHAMBER - DAY

22

THOMAS is kissing CATHERINE's neck trying to reengage, but CATHERINE is plotting to the ceiling;

CATHERINE
And I'll be damned if you go back to France or worst up to Scotland. Enough blood and money has been spent. I'll tell Edward.

THOMAS
Don't 'tell' Edward anything. We mustn't make him feel pushed around, he is the new king.

CATHERINE
He's 10 years old. Who else would speak to him or for him but his stepmother and you? You're his favourite uncle.

THOMAS
(briefly up for air)
Well that's not difficult, you've met my brother.

The SERVANT returns, he sets the wine down, unsure how to interrupt, they ignore him.

CATHERINE
Elizabeth is coming to live with me. I'm as close to a mother as she's ever going to get. And then we keep Edward close, I'll be Queen Regent and you -

The SERVANT awkwardly tries to interrupt;

SERVANT
Sir?

THOMAS
(irritated, still busy
with CATHERINE)
What?

SERVANT
The um, the Lord Dudley was asking
after you.

THOMAS
Of course he was.
(To CATHERINE)
They're obsessed with me. Him and
my brother.

SERVANT
Your brother's gone sir.

THOMAS
(irritated by further
interruptions)
What?

SERVANT
He left this morning.

CATHERINE
Left? No wonder you're the
favourite uncle. The other one
leaves while the new king still
sobs into a pillow for his father.

SERVANT
The new king went with him.

CATHERINE and THOMAS both look to the SERVANT.

SERVANT (CONT'D)
Your brother, the Duke of Somerset,
left, with the new king, first
thing this morning sir.

A beat as this information lands on them both.

THOMAS
Oh for fuck's sake!

THOMAS gets out of bed and starts dressing quickly.

SOMERSET rides with EDWARD, a small boy on a horse. Their
entourage both ahead and behind them. EDWARD has tears
spilling down his face, SOMERSET notices.

SOMERSET
(nodding to the SERVANTS)
Don't let them see you doing that.

EDWARD glances up confused. SOMERSET speaks slowly, carefully, always considered;

SOMERSET (CONT'D)
You're not Edward anymore. You're not a boy anymore. You're the king of England.

EDWARD looks back down to his horse, taking this in.

SOMERSET (CONT'D)
You think your father cried?

EDWARD
No sir.

SOMERSET
No sir he did not.

A SERVANT rides up to SOMERSET.

SERVANT
Sir we're about to -

SOMERSET nods him on and the SERVANT rides on up ahead (to ready entrance to London). SOMERSET takes his chance.

SOMERSET
We'll meet with the council when we arrive. Your father's will assigned sixteen of us to rule for you, understand?

EDWARD
Yes.

SOMERSET
Sixteen is many voices. Court can be a forest of opinions, with no path through it.

EDWARD looks to SOMERSET, SOMERSET doesn't look to him.

SOMERSET (CONT'D)
Even your father could get lost. You saw how they swarmed round him even when he was dying, it's for that reason I locked the will away.

Still not looking at EDWARD, SOMERSET shows he has a key round his neck.

SOMERSET (CONT'D)

The king is gone. A great hole has opened up in this world. And men are scrambling to fill it. But the more you let in, the more you leave yourself exposed. You need one voice. Are you listening Edward?

EDWARD

Yes. One voice.

SOMERSET

There is the council. There is the people. There is the church. Both of them. There are the French. There are the Scots. There is the Holy Roman Emperor. And they all have England tied at the wrists behind their horse and drive it in different directions. There are your sisters. There are -

EDWARD

One voice. I understand uncle.

SOMERSET

So permit me to be that voice. Your voice. The king's voice.

EDWARD takes this in, he opens his mouth to argue but then SOMERSET nods up.

SOMERSET (CONT'D)

And we're here.

The sudden sound of trumpets as they go through the gates of London startles EDWARD. EDWARD is overwhelmed, SOMERSET hangs back, watching the boy.

24

INT. CHELSEA MANOR - DAY

24

The great hallway of the Chelsea Manor. We watch from above as footsteps echo as ELIZABETH walks in and looks around, KAT follows her in.

ELIZABETH

That they won't let me or my sister attend the coronation, my own brother. What are they afraid of? Already we're edged to the back of the picture.

KAT

Be happy that you are being kept away from all that. Coronations. The procession. The heat. The horses. The hours in the Abbey.

(MORE)

KAT (CONT'D)

Lord be praised for saving us from that. Now, can your suspicious mind stop running wild, no one has need of you, you are a 14 year old child.

ELIZABETH

And Edward, my 10 year old brother rules England. They are trying to bring my 5 year old cousin down from Scotland to marry him. To act like my age is any protection from the designs of men -

CATHERINE

Ah the designs of men.

ELIZABETH and KAT turn to see that CATHERINE has arrived with her SERVANTS, she comes to her charge opening her arms.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

My darling girl. Let me see you.
(delivering her verdict)
You look thin and you look sad.

ELIZABETH

(formally)
I'm very grateful for your invitation for me to stay here at Chelsea with you, my loving mother -

CATHERINE cuts through, warmly and kindly;

CATHERINE

But I'm not am I? But I can be as good as. To both you and Edward. And Mary if she'd ever dream of letting me. And perhaps if I were twice my age.

(ELIZABETH allows herself a sly smile)

Pay no attention to the designs of men. They forget them as quickly as they make them. But my designs however these you should worry about.

ELIZABETH

(cautiously)
And what are they may I ask?

CATHERINE

(teasing kindness)
For you to live here. And to be happy. And to be safe. Your father and my husband may be dead, and we can mourn his loss together here.

(MORE)

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

But he made his wishes for you and this country plain. You and your sister's place in succession is clear. And your brother is to be guided by the council. And these wishes will be followed as if they were writ by God himself.

CATHERINE holds ELIZABETH tightly by the shoulders, ELIZABETH believes her. For the first time since her father's death - she relaxes.

25

INT. COURT - DAY

25

THOMAS and DUDLEY are together in an empty side chamber, THOMAS has his feet up on the table. DUDLEY probes;

DUDLEY

I mean sixteen is a lot.

THOMAS

Is it even sixteen though? Who knows what it says, only my brother has the bloody key, he's the only one who read the will!

DUDLEY

I read the will.

THOMAS looks to him in surprise, then resignation.

THOMAS

Oh of course you did. Earl of Warwick aren't you now? When did he do that. With his final breath a footnote amend? Christ so we now call writing reading do we. Because of course you've 'read' the will.

DUDLEY

(ignoring this)

And like I say sixteen is a lot.

THOMAS

A child is king of England. Poor boy. My poor nephew. He's going to be ripped to shreds. Sixteen people pulling at his strings.

DUDLEY

Your brother wants to be Lord Protector. Speak for the council, be the head of it. So only one man, with the strings.

THOMAS

Oh yes and sixteen people are going to give up their say in the kingdom in deference to him?

DUDLEY

Already have.

THOMAS is confused, DUDLEY mimes money. A beat as THOMAS takes this in.

THOMAS

Where does he find the fucking time!

DUDLEY

(calmly still)

You should share. It's a reasonable request. Two Lord Protectors. The king's two uncles. Some balance in the country, insurance for us all against either of your more, headstrong, qualities.

SOMERSET comes out the chamber, addressing DUDLEY.

SOMERSET

Are you - Oh you're here.

SOMERSET sees his brother.

THOMAS

I'm very fast on a horse.

SOMERSET

Seen it many times, brother, galloping quickly away from the trouble that you started.

(irritated)

Come on then.

As the men go through to the corridor to enter a main room, HENRY GREY appears - 30 years old, vain but lazy, ambitious but stupid and right now, late.

HENRY

I'm here!

SOMERSET

(To a GUARD, quietly)

Bar the door.

SOMERSET returns to leading the men inside as HENRY still approaches down the long corridor, THOMAS in SOMERSET's ear;

THOMAS

(about barring the door)

What, no Henry?

SOMERSET
(muttering back, with eyes
on HENRY)
No, no fucking Henry.

The MEN disappear inside and the door shuts, the GUARD moves blocking HENRY'S way, he looks to the GUARD perplexed.

26

INT. COURT - DAY

26

EDWARD is a small boy at the head of a council of sixteen grown men as THOMAS, SOMERSET and DUDLEY enter. EDWARD'S eyes nervously rove the different figures; eating, waiting, writing, talking. SOMERSET strides to the head to stand behind the king, DUDLEY takes a seat, THOMAS hesitates.

SOMERSET
Right now that we're all assembled
the new King of England his Majesty
Edward VI would like to say a few
words.

SOMERSET claps a hand to EDWARD'S shoulder and sits, THOMAS follows. EDWARD looks around wide eyed, he wasn't expecting to have to address the council.

EDWARD
My lords. Thank you for your
service to my father, King Henry-

DULDEY
(interjecting loudly)
God rest his soul.

Hear, hears echo round making EDWARD jump...

EDWARD
I am grateful to my uncle, the Lord
Protector Duke of Somerset -

THOMAS
And on that Edward -

SOMERSET
You interrupt the king sir?

THOMAS
(addressing EDWARD)
I'm so sorry Your Majesty! I throw
myself upon your mercy.

THOMAS throws a wink to EDWARD who grins to himself, embarrassed but pleased by his favourite uncle.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
But, brother, Lord Protector are we
now?

SOMERSET
You heard the king Thomas.

THOMAS
I did indeed.

SOMERSET looks to DUDLEY briefly, who shrugs, he feigns innocence and surprise at THOMAS' cheek.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
But let me ask, is your mother my mother sir?

SOMERSET
(cautiously)
Yes.

THOMAS
And, forgive me for asking but you as the elder brother would know better than I, our mother, she wasn't a whore was she?

SOMERSET
Brother or not watch your tongue.

THOMAS
So I am your brother? You agree?

SOMERSET
Get to the heart of it.

THOMAS
If you are my brother, we shared the same sister did we not? The good king's mother? Was it not? We are the king's uncles, are we not?

SOMERSET doesn't answer. EDWARD looks between the two confused. Attempting to be helpful;

EDWARD
You are both my uncles.

THOMAS
(holding up fingers)
Two?

EDWARD
Yes.

THOMAS
(holding up a lone finger)
Then how come one Lord Protector?

THOMAS drums the table and looks around trying to prompt a response from the rest of the council. He looks to DUDLEY, DUDLEY covers himself with a sideways look of 'I warned you'.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

No one has anything to say!? Every man in here for sale were they? And no one even asked me to the market.

THOMAS is electric in his anger. One of the council, ARCHBISHOP CRANMER, pipes up;

CRANMER

The new king is not even crowned and we're to have a war at the table for who would speak for him?

SOMERSET

Go calm down Thomas, outside.

THOMAS

(outraged)
Outside?

SOMERSET

(calmly, dangerously)
Outside.

SOMERSET glances to GUARDS at the door. THOMAS looks around, he feels the room. He gets up. There is silence as he goes. DUDLEY raises his eyebrows to himself. The door shuts.

SOMERSET (CONT'D)

So the coronation, -

The council continues.

27 **INT. COURT - DAY**

27

HENRY is sitting stropily on a chair outside waiting for the council to emerge, THOMAS comes out.

HENRY

What the fuck is this Thomas?

Now outside THOMAS has controlled his anger, he looks to HENRY and away again. The two men, shut out of the room of power behind them.

28 **INT. CHELSEA MANOR - DAY**

28

ELIZABETH is at a window watching the crowded streets. The young king's coronation is going on outside.

29 **EXT. LONDON STREETS - DAY**

29

The streets are alive with people and actors, drinking, singing and dancing.

We find EDWARD robed and on a horse, with DUDLEY and SOMERSET either side. He watches a tumbler up high on a tight rope. He is giggling watching.

30 **EXT. LONDON TAVERN - DAY**

30

Outside a tavern, some drunks are gathered;

MAN

Fearsome like a lion, like his
father, he may be but 10 but he
stands high off the ground, taller
than any of you.

WOMAN

He'll show the Scots!

MAN

That he will, fearsome, yet noble,
he speaks God's truth, he's seen
through the lies of Rome and would
tear out the tongue of the Pope
himself if he could!

WOMAN

Of the Pope!?

MAN

Or any man like him! To the new
king!

The cheers, drunkenly happily but earnest in their awe.

31 **EXT. LONDON STREETS - DAY**

31

EDWARD giggles like a child. DUDLEY and SOMERSET exchange a look of boredom and worry as the child watches the tumbler.

32 **INT. CHELSEA MANOR - NIGHT**

32

There is singing from downstairs in the kitchens. The front door bursts open and there is a drunken shout of a silhouetted figure in the doorway;

MAN

God save the king!

33 **INT. CHELSEA MANOR, ELIZABETH'S CHAMBER - NIGHT**

33

ELIZABETH in bed hears shouts from downstairs, she gets up stepping over a sleeping SERVANT. She creeps out.

34

INT. CHELSEA MANOR - NIGHT

34

We see the man is THOMAS, he turns his cries into a shouting dance, his SERVANT tries to hush him.

SERVANT

Sir.

THOMAS

(still dancing)

God save the king!

SERVANT

Sir please.

THOMAS

God save the -

THOMAS looks up spotting ELIZABETH. He is silent. The ghostly figure on the stairs, him in the darkened hallway.

SERVANT

(quietly)

It's the princess Elizabeth.

THOMAS

Sir Thomas Seymour. You remember me
Your Highness?

THOMAS falls to the floor in mock reverence. She smiles.

ELIZABETH

Of course sir.

SERVANT

Sir. Sir.

The SERVANT tries to pull THOMAS to his feet who in turn pulls him half to the ground. KAT appears behind ELIZABETH;

KAT

What do you think you're doing,
barely dressed and out here?

KAT pulls ELIZABETH away who keeps eyes on THOMAS.

THOMAS

Good night. Elizabeth. Glory to you
princess Elizabeth!

From the other side of the corridor, CATHERINE has appeared.

CATHERINE

For goodness sake!

CATHERINE reaches THOMAS who kisses her, CATHERINE swiftly looks up to check that ELIZABETH hasn't seen but KAT has dragged her away just in time.

- 35 **INT. CHELSEA MANOR, ELIZABETH'S CHAMBER - NIGHT** 35
- KAT scolds ELIZABETH who climbs back into bed.
- KAT
- You have to show some level of decorum even if Thomas Seymour knows none.
- In bed, a smile creeps onto ELIZABETH's face, a clear crush on the decorum-less THOMAS.
- 36 **INT. CHELSEA MANOR - NIGHT** 36
- THOMAS has been dragged up by CATHERINE and the SERVANT.
- THOMAS
- A boy's the king and my brother's in charge. What devil down there is playing finger puppets with us all?
- THOMAS mimes the devil playing finger puppets from down in hell. CATHERINE grabs hold of THOMAS;
- CATHERINE
- Your brother may have his pawn in the game. But I have mine.
- CATHERINE nods up the stairs to where ELIZABETH went. THOMAS looks up after her and back to CATHERINE, surprised.
- 37 **INT. CHELSEA MANOR, ELIZABETH'S CHAMBER - NIGHT** 37
- ELIZABETH lies in bed, the sound of snoring and sleeping servants around her. She glances to them then back to the ceiling. Her thoughts full of THOMAS, a smile creeping onto her face.
- 38 **EXT. LINLITHGOW PALACE - DAY** 38
- We follow a five year old GIRL running through the courtyards of the palace. This is **MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS** she ducks through feet and rounds NURSES till she is stopped by a fearsome looking GUARD blocking her escape. We see the castle she is trying to run from; Linlithgow Palace, she wants to run down its sloping hills to the Loch below. The NURSE catches up with the little GIRL and pulls her back into the palace.
- 39 **INT. COURT - NIGHT** 39
- It's late at night/early in the morning, SOMERSET is absorbed in writing as **ANNE**, his wife 37, formidable, proud and fiercely intelligent sits behind.

DUDLEY watches as EDWARD looks disdainfully at a portrait of the little girl, MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS, we just saw...

DUDLEY
She's quite beautiful.

EDWARD
She's five!

SOMERSET
(not looking up)
It was your father's wish, sir, as you well know, that you marry the Scottish Queen. This is not a new development.

EDWARD
I was just a prince when this arrangement was made. And I shouldn't have to send an army to fetch a wife for myself. Especially one that's five years old, especially one that's Scottish. If we need an alliance, an alliance -

SOMERSET
You've not been crowned more than a day sir, perhaps some sleep before we change the king's wishes -

EDWARD
I am the king now!

SOMERSET looks up from his work because EDWARD has shouted, EDWARD cringes under his uncle's cold surprise.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
(more tentative)
We can't afford a war anyway.

SOMERSET
A prosaic worry Your Majesty is it not?

DUDLEY is amused. EDWARD attempts a parting shot.

EDWARD
If you lose there will be serious consequences.

ANNE
If he loses he will be dead Edward. Consequence enough I would think.

EDWARD looks between the two, he can't answer, he storms off.

DUDLEY

A prosaic worry? You're the most prosaic man I've ever met.

ANNE

(now that EDWARD is gone)
Is it wise my dear? To go against the boy -

SOMERSET

(correcting)
The king, Anne.

ANNE

The king. But if 'the king' doesn't want a war with Scotland, if he won't go through with a marriage -

SOMERSET

Scotland wants to marry this child off to France, you want that? Us to be pincered by the savages and the godless. No.

SOMERSET packs up his things. His word is final.

SOMERSET (CONT'D)

Scotland brought to heel. The king married. England strong. No one will see a country governed by a child then.

ANNE and DUDLEY exchange a look.

DUDLEY

Shouldn't this house be in order before we set it against another though?

SOMERSET

(exhausted by him)
It is late Lord Dudley.

DUDLEY

Your brother. Challenges you across a council meeting. And you want to leave him here while you run to a squabble in Scotland over children's betrothals? Thomas has eyes on Catherine Parr, again, I wouldn't be surprised if he fancied himself married to her one day.

SOMERSET

My brother marry a king's widow? Even in his dreams -

ANNE

Your brother lives in dreams.

SOMERSET

Forget my brother, the pair of you.
He is a firework. There is a lot of
noise. A big display. But nothing
of any consequence.

SOMERSET heads out, ANNE eyes DUDLEY, they are both sceptical
of this analysis, ANNE follows SOMERSET out.

40

INT. CHELSEA - DAY

40

ELIZABETH is in the doorway, she can see THOMAS on the floor
by a bench that he has fallen off of in the night. It's
bright daylight. She smiles. She ventures.

ELIZABETH

Sir you are still here.

THOMAS jolts awake, and turns to see over to see her in the
doorway.

THOMAS

Princess Elizabeth.

THOMAS scrambles up, he is unsteady on his feet, he puts his
hands on his knees and takes a moment, he looks up to
ELIZABETH and smiles embarrassed sharing his hangover pain.
She laughs.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Still here and full of regret. And
shame. And wine. To see the
coronation of a king, to see him
touched by God, it's a thrilling
thing. May it be the only time I
see it in my lifetime.

THOMAS indicates his hangover, she smiles. CATHERINE arrives.

CATHERINE

My Lord. You have awoken.

CATHERINE crosses to THOMAS, and murmurs in his ear.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

You fucking fool.

(To the room)

Have you apologised to my poor
Elizabeth here? Like she needs to
see a man of the council make such
an utter disgrace of himself. She
will think her brother is governed
by the feckless and the witless.

THOMAS
(to ELIZABETH)
Well that very well may be true.

ELIZABETH
(coyly)
You shouldn't speak so of your
brother sir.

THOMAS
You are quite right. As ever. I -

THOMAS stops suddenly as if he might be sick CATHERINE looks
him over, quietly to him;

CATHERINE
Don't you dare.

THOMAS shakes his head, he won't be sick. Then changes his
mind, he really might be. He makes a face to ELIZABETH and
lightly sprints out past her. CATHERINE looks to ELIZABETH,
she tries a motherly sigh about THOMAS and goes to follow
after him. As she goes though she is stopped by;

ELIZABETH
Sir Thomas was always quite unlike
the lords and dukes that I would
meet at Hatfield. But maybe this is
what they're like up here in court.
London's quite different from the
country isn't it?

CATHERINE
I think, as ever, Thomas is his own
exception.

CATHERINE follows after THOMAS, ELIZABETH is lost in thought
with a teenager's smile on her face. **PARRY**, her large bald
Welsh servant appears. He shouts over his shoulder.

PARRY
Found her Mistress Ashley!

ELIZABETH
I hardly disappeared

PARRY
Kat's been looking for you.

KAT appears.

KAT
I have been looking for you

ELIZABETH
This is my home now. Surely I'm
allowed to go where I like.

ELIZABETH moves off imperiously, KAT and THOMAS exchange a look about their charge

41

EXT. CHELSEA - DAY

41

THOMAS is throwing up in a courtyard, CATHERINE comes up behind him, unamused at the sight.

CATHERINE

I will find a bucket of water for you to dunk your head in. Sober you up.

THOMAS

You know what, that actually sounds quite marvellous right now.

THOMAS sits back on his heels and grins at her, CATHERINE smirks back despite herself.

CATHERINE

Please stop flirting so outrageously with Elizabeth.

THOMAS puts his hands up in a mock surrender, CATHERINE smirks again.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

Your brother has gone to Scotland. Again. To fetch the little Scottish Queen back for the king.

THOMAS

Any excuse for a fight that man.

CATHERINE

He must have been born in chainmail, your poor mother.

They share a small smile at the idea.

THOMAS

So the boy king. Is alone.

THOMAS looks to CATHERINE, they both have had this thought.

CATHERINE

I think your brother has had his ear long enough don't you think?

THOMAS

(teasingly)

You're offering me the king's ear?

CATHERINE

Actually I'd like to offer you the Queen's hand. If you'd like it.

THOMAS points to her questioningly, CATHERINE shrugs, holding her nerve.

THOMAS
My brother's away you say.

CATHERINE watches him closely, he is holding back a smile.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Hm.

THOMAS walks away, CATHERINE watches him go, confused.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
(without turning, calling
back)
Best marry you while I have the
chance then.

CATHERINE grins, truly relieved and actually very in love.

Up at a window, unable to hear ELIZABETH watches THOMAS cross the courtyard. A similar look on her face as CATHERINE. She calls down.

ELIZABETH
Sir Thomas.

THOMAS stops and turns to her. She is suddenly at a loss.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
Send my regards to my brother the
King. Please.

THOMAS bows his head accepting it, out of eyesight to ELIZABETH, CATHERINE rolls her eyes at him. He smirks back, a shared joke at the teenager's crush. We see ELIZABETH, her sights set firmly on THOMAS.

42

INT. COURT - DAY

42

EDWARD is in a corner with BARNABY FITZPATRICK, a boy the same age as him and his best friend. They whisper away from other BOYS, in small version of a classroom.

BARNABY
So you could just have him
executed?

EDWARD
I could have anyone executed.

BARNABY
Your own uncle? The Lord Protector?

EDWARD

If he keeps telling me what to do I will. Or maybe the Scots will do it for me.

JOHN CHEKE begins his class as he enters;

CHEKE

Honor, honoris, honori, honorem, honore, honor. Your Majesty.

CHEKE bows slightly to the king and continues, the BOYS echo back his Latin, BARNABY climbs onto a seat by the king.

BARNABY

Could you have the Master Cheke executed?

EDWARD

He is a believer in the new religion why would I do that?

BARNABY

No I just... could you?

EDWARD

I can do what I want. I'm the king.

CHEKE

(gently admonishing the
whispering boys)
Sire.

BARNABY

Not like your father was the king.

EDWARD

The king is the king.

BARNABY

Your father could do what he wanted. He didn't sit in lessons and have his uncles fight his wars. He didn't have pocket money. He drank, he swore, he fought -

CHEKE

Barnaby. Just once more.

BARNABY is hushed, the BOYS are copying words down. EDWARD watches BARNABY work. He looks round to the others. Is that what they're all thinking? CHEKE sees EDWARD is not copying the words down.

CHEKE (CONT'D)

Your Majesty.

EDWARD
I know it already.

CHEKE
How fortuitous. So write it down.

CHEKE smiles and goes back to the front, EDWARD feels the glances of the boys on him.

EDWARD
I said I won't do it.

CHEKE
And why's that sire?

EDWARD
Because I'm the fucking king.

EDWARD is fierce, the surrounding BOYS eyes are wide...

43

EXT. COURT, CLOISTER - DAY

43

The crack of a stick from inside the classroom echoes down the corridor. We find THOMAS who follows EDWARD's servant FOWLER along the way.

FOWLER
The king's lessons are of the utmost importance, your brother said -

THOMAS
If one more person tells me what my brother has or has not said.

FOWLER
I'm just not sure if -

THOMAS
He left for Scotland. The cat. Is away.

THOMAS produces some money and hands it to FOWLER, FOWLER smiles. The sound of a stick cracking, they turn and look to it.

44

INT. COURT, CLASSROOM - DAY

44

We see blood spurt out from BARNABY's face. BARNABY is struck again with a rod and falls to the floor. CHEKE stands to the side watching as a SERVANT viciously beats the 11 year old. The BOYS of the classroom sit watching in horror and fascination, we find EDWARD sitting with them watching. Embarrassed, chastised and horrified. THOMAS and FOWLER come to the door. On seeing the beating;

THOMAS
Hey now what is this?

CHEKE
Education sir.

BARNABY takes another hit.

THOMAS
Stop. Stop this.

THOMAS has eyes on the frozen EDWARD. He goes over and physically pulls the SERVANT apart from BARNABY.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
What's your crime young sir?

BARNABY can't speak as he coughs blood onto the floor.

EDWARD
My crime uncle.

THOMAS
Your crime?
(mockingly shocked)
Good Lord!

The BOYS giggle.

CHEKE
(to THOMAS uncomfortably,
privately)
Well I can't have the king beaten
can I?

THOMAS stepping over and nodding to BARNABY.

THOMAS
(casually)
Unfortunate young man.
(to EDWARD)
Come on then, I have need of you
Your Majesty.

EDWARD gets up, he has to step round the bloody BARNABY. He eyes him but says nothing and follows THOMAS outside. CHEKE is unamused. He turns to the class in a fury.

CHEKE
Hoc testamentum est quo terram
lego!

The BOYS echo it as BARNABY struggles to get up.

45

EXT. COURT, CLOISTER - DAY

45

EDWARD joins FOWLER and THOMAS outside and sees CATHERINE is there waiting for them. He beams but then tries to moderate his happiness;

EDWARD

My Lady -

THOMAS

Now Edward you think we prize you out of class in order to indulge in formalities? There is no one about but us. I think you could chance an embrace.

EDWARD looks around swiftly then embraces CATHERINE tightly.

EDWARD

How is my sister Elizabeth?

THOMAS

She sends her regards.

CATHERINE

You should come see her.

EDWARD

That wouldn't be right. Tell her to come visit us at court. I will issue an invitation.

CATHERINE smiles sadly to THOMAS and strokes his cheek.

CATHERINE

Very well my king.

EDWARD strides on in the corridor, playing the part of the king, THOMAS and CATHERINE indulge him following.

EDWARD

To both my sisters. I spoke of my older sister Mary only yesterday at court, we agreed that we must have her married.

THOMAS

Must we?

EDWARD

I suggested you uncle. You'd bring her round to the new religion wouldn't you? She's too headstrong.

THOMAS

You think my brother would ever let me marry a princess?

THOMAS has eyes and a wry smile looking at CATHERINE as they follow the boy.

46

EXT. PINKIE CLEUGH - DAY

46

SOMERSET sits on a horse overlooking the potential battlefield from Falside Hill. He takes in a deep breath, he smiles, for the first time since we've seen him. PEDRO, a black mercenary on horseback with a Spanish accent rides up to him.

PEDRO

They have asked again for this to be settled by you. Single combat.

SOMERSET

(wryly)

You think I've come all this way with 16,000 men for that? They must think I'm mad.

PEDRO looks to SOMERSET and glances back to the ENGLISH camp where a crowd of ENGLISH SOLDIERS, among them SIR WILLIAM GREY drinking, he looks back to SOMERSET.

PEDRO

We're outnumbered Lord Somerset. I assume you know this. But you're taking it much more calmly than the rest of you English if I may say so.

SOMERSET

(eyes on the battlefield)

I have been trapped in court like a fly under a glass acting school master and nurse maid to the greedy, the reckless and the stupid. If only problems at home were as simply solved as they are here, with a sword and some of strength of character.

PEDRO watches SOMERSET, not disliking him, he doesn't say anything. SOMERSET is calm, at last in his element.

47

INT. CHELSEA - DAY

47

ELIZABETH's beautiful curvature handwriting. CATHERINE sits with her, KAT behind them both as ELIZABETH writes.

CATHERINE

This is beautiful. I remember the book you made for the late king's birthday. Not a word out of place, not a correction.

KAT

She took great pains with that.

CATHERINE

It was close to his heart.

ELIZABETH

Did he have it with him?

CATHERINE

Sorry?

ELIZABETH

When he died?

CATHERINE

(after hesitation)

I was not with the king when he died. It was the Lord Somerset and the Archbishop.

(ELIZABETH is disappointed)

I wouldn't be surprised if it was though. A golden child.

They continue for a moment.

ELIZABETH

Speaking of the Lord Somerset your lady are we to see any more of his brother the Admiral?

KAT's eyes flit up, she can read ELIZABETH like a book.

CATHERINE

(feigning innocence)

The Admiral?

ELIZABETH

I hear that is Sir Thomas Seymour's new position? The Lord High Admiral.

CATHERINE

Is that so.

ELIZABETH

Did they not tell you?

CATHERINE

There have been a great number of movements at court, it takes a while to adjust to them. But now I suppose, yes your brother Edward did tell me that Sir Thomas was now the Admiral.

ELIZABETH continues with her work, KAT smiles to herself, she can see ELIZABETH's mind whirring.

48

INT. CHELSEA - DAY

48

KAT and ELIZABETH are alone in another part of the house, KAT catches her back.

KAT
So Sir Thomas?

ELIZABETH
I'm not going to stand and gossip
with you like a fish wife.

KAT
(a teasing apology)
I'm sorry my lady.

ELIZABETH goes to walk on proudly but then can't help but smile, KAT laughs, they are good friends after all...

KAT (CONT'D)
He is a handsome man, even I must
admit -

ELIZABETH
You have a husband.

KAT
And eyes too.

They laugh again, ELIZABETH is cautious again.

ELIZABETH
I am still in mourning for my
father the king, what do you think
they would think? What she would
think of me, if I am talking of men
like a common whore -

KAT
Your Grace -

ELIZABETH
I don't need to carry the stains of
my mother around forever.

KAT
No one thinks that.

ELIZABETH
He is a fine man, he is my
brother's uncle. His brother is the
Lord Protector. And it's not as if
I could marry a foreigner is it?
(MORE)

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Not when I'm in line for the throne.

KAT

(a little taken back)
Marry?

ELIZABETH

Yes, marry. Thomas Seymour. There could be no earthly reason why the council would object.

ELIZABETH is sure of herself, KAT looks after her a little wrong footed by her young charge.

49

INT. CHURCH - NIGHT

49

A PRIEST looks up from a table, unsure.

PRIEST

But, you have, no permission -

We see he is faced with THOMAS and CATHERINE.

CATHERINE

We ask permission and it won't be granted, we have to force their hand.

PRIEST

If you wait -

CATHERINE

Wait? To be sold off again to the highest bidder? How do you think I ended up in the king's bed to start with. Peasants have more ownership of their futures than I do. I beg the freedom of a peasant.

PRIEST

The Lord Protector -

THOMAS

The Lord Protector isn't here.

PRIEST

But when he is?

CATHERINE

If he ever is again, he is at war.

The PRIEST hesitates.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

Well if you won't let me beg it, I'll buy it.

(MORE)

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
(sarcastically, handing
money over)
For the poor box.

The PRIESTS gets up and goes to ready himself for the ceremony. THOMAS and CATHERINE are close.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
What will you tell your brother?

THOMAS
I'll say 'Brother. You don't pull my strings. Anymore.' What will you tell Elizabeth?

CATHERINE
That no woman with any wit should allow herself to become a bargaining chip in other people's games.

THOMAS
How very modern of you.

THOMAS goes to kiss CATHERINE. The PRIEST sees.

PRIEST
Hey, hey now. Wait. I'm one minute.

The PRIEST waves the Bible that he is coming over with. THOMAS whispers to CATHERINE.

THOMAS
And the king?

CATHERINE
We will tell the king when the time is right. And what will they do? Execute us? We're family.

As the PRIEST approaches, Bible in hand to perform the ceremony.

PRIEST
Never stopped that family before.

THOMAS and CATHERINE hand in hand look up to the PRIEST surprised by his gall, the PRIEST turns to the relevant page with a defiant flourish. He begins the ceremony...

The sound of heavy, fevered breathing. We follow a group of MEN running through the bogs. Bloody and battered they are panicked as they flee. One MAN struggling with his heavy weapons drops them to make faster way. The OTHERS see him and copy.

KAT, equally taken with THOMAS, waves over. THOMAS sees them and approaches, he looks to ELIZABETH.

THOMAS

My lady.

KAT

I hear Elizabeth that we should be congratulating Sir Thomas here.

THOMAS

For what?

KAT

Talk of marriage.

ELIZABETH

(ELIZABETH is horrified
that KAT is about to
reveal her plans)

What? I never... I only thought...

KAT doesn't note ELIZABETH's horror as she teases THOMAS.

KAT

Well one hears a great many things,
so all cannot be true but I did
hear that Sir Thomas and our Lady
Catherine -

ELIZABETH

Catherine?

KAT

I did try and tell you earlier but
Scotland has filled my head.

THOMAS

My goodness are you my brother in
disguise?

ELIZABETH is too in shock to answer, THOMAS sees his joke not working, he looks to KAT playfully.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Now tell me Mistress Ashley where
you get all your information from.

KAT

I repeat only what I hear.

THOMAS is smiling with KAT, willing to share the truth, KAT is almost flirting back but ELIZABETH is sharp with KAT;

ELIZABETH

Well stop up your ears then. You accuse Sir Thomas here of treason, marrying the king's widow, my brother and his brother would have his head for that. Forgive my lady Kat here sir, she talks and talks and pays no mind to what falls from her mouth.

THOMAS

Treason's a strong word.

ELIZABETH

And one I won't hear you accused of.

THOMAS is quiet, he looks her angry resolve over, he nods and smiles.

THOMAS

Good afternoon.

THOMAS walks on. ELIZABETH is mortified to have messed it up, KAT begins the second he is out of earshot;

KAT

My Goodness! Must you be so harsh around people? No wonder you scare the man away with a harmless joke from me, you are too sensitive. We must have a serious talk about what is and is not befitting of a lady, military strategy and accusations of treason are not, I assure you!

ELIZABETH looks after THOMAS ashamed and embarrassed.

53

INT. COURT - DAY

53

THOMAS is entering court, he is spooked by ELIZABETH's words and lost in thought. DUDLEY appears.

DUDLEY

I'm surprised to see you in the daylight and out of Chelsea. Is Catherine's bed really that warm?

THOMAS

Lord Dudley I feel that you should be scrubbing shirts in a river somewhere with the other washerwomen.

DUDLEY

I just wanted to know if you have been as stupid as I hear you've been.

THOMAS

This whole place, does nothing stay secret? What do they claim I've done now?

DUDLEY

If you have gone and married that woman Thomas... you've made yourselves quite irrelevant to this game.

THOMAS

How so?

DUDLEY

You think the king's going to listen to his stepmother if she's a whore? Married before the corpse is cold. You think anyone would let her near him again. As for you -

THOMAS

You were the one who told me to share the Lord Protectorship, you consider me a valuable piece in this game whether you admit it or not.

DUDLEY

When this comes out you will be lucky to keep your head never mind your position.

THOMAS

The king is my nephew, and whatever you think of him, the Lord Protector is my brother so -

DUDLEY

You haven't heard?

THOMAS

(irritated)

I can't imagine anyone hears anything Lord Dudley unless it's come through you first.

DUDLEY

There's been word from Scotland.

DUDLEY is unreadable, THOMAS is suddenly frozen, is his brother dead?

54

INT. COURT, A BANQUET - NIGHT

54

A rumbling cheer as EDWARD stands head of a packed banquet.

EDWARD
6,000 dead!

A huge roaring cheer goes round the room.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
And only 200 English.

DUDLEY looks sceptically to his plate but says nothing.

EDWARD nods to HENRY GREY who sits with FRANCES, his wife, and an 11 year old girl, who, though we don't know this right now, is LADY JANE GREY, along with their two other daughters KATHERINE and MARY (who is a dwarf) at a table. EDWARD looks to ANNE who sits to his side.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
And the speedy return of the Lord
Protector.

We see THOMAS sitting beside EDWARD, not overly thrilled at this idea...

DUDLEY
And your bride.

There is laughter around the room.

EDWARD
And my future bride. Today Scotland
learned that England's pride did
not die with my father.

CATHERINE rises and proposes a toast.

CATHERINE
The new Josiah Edward VI.

The crowd cheers to EDWARD VI. ANNE is annoyed at CATHERINE's interruption. EDWARD is confiding in THOMAS;

EDWARD
I haven't enough money to thank a
servant who empties a pisspot.

THOMAS
I'll see what I can do.

EDWARD
I'm grateful for Scotland but I, I
don't see why I have to actually
marry this girl, if we have her
here is that not enough?

THOMAS

You have to marry someone.

EDWARD

I know that. But is no one permitted to marry for love?

THOMAS

Who do you love?

EDWARD

I don't, I don't love anyone, I just, if I was...

THOMAS looks up and sees him looking at JANE.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

I barely know her, she played cards with me when I was a boy.

THOMAS smirks as CATHERINE approaches the top table.

CATHERINE

Why are we looking so serious?

THOMAS

Edward is talking of love.

EDWARD

I am not! Where's Elizabeth? Is she late?

ANNE

Your Grace.

CATHERINE's answer to EDWARD is interrupted as she turns to look at ANNE, clear mutual dislike.

CATHERINE

Lady Somerset. I assume you had some hand in the seating tonight?

ANNE

Is there something amiss?

CATHERINE

I'm just surprised that as the king's mother -

ANNE

Step mother.

CATHERINE

- I am usurped from his side.

ANNE

I am the Lord Protector's wife.
There is a new order now Catherine
and you must acknowledge your new
place in it.

THOMAS frowns, taking this in, CATHERINE really isn't as influential as he felt she was...

CATHERINE

Edward I wanted to talk to you.

THOMAS looks to CATHERINE suddenly, he stands.

THOMAS

One moment my lord.

ANNE

(to EDWARD)

Your Majesty, I wished to speak to
you -

ANNE envelopes EDWARD into conversation as THOMAS manoeuvres CATHERINE away;

THOMAS

What are you doing?

CATHERINE

We were waiting for the right
moment, that moment has come. Your
brother is alive. He will be coming
back. Best tell Edward now before
he can be poisoned against us.

THOMAS

It's treason. What we have done.

CATHERINE

But it is done.

THOMAS

Yes well, no one knows about it.

THOMAS is urgent, he wants to pull out of this. CATHERINE is shocked. HENRY GREY has got up from his table.

HENRY

(calling over)

Thomas.

CATHERINE

God knows.

THOMAS

Yes but -

HENRY arrives interrupting them both.

HENRY

Your brother isn't even here and still there is me and my family relegated to the back of the hall.

CATHERINE takes advantage and leaves them.

THOMAS

Henry for goodness' sake.

HENRY

My wife is in line for the throne. We're family. As much as you. My girls grew up with the king.

THOMAS

Yes I just heard this.

THOMAS, despite himself, notes JANE looking in rapt attention to EDWARD.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

She is an earnest one.

HENRY

Prayers and books and Latin, all you get out of her.

As HENRY continues, THOMAS is considering her, he follows her eyes to EDWARD and sees a tearful CATHERINE with him, THOMAS is suddenly on edge as HENRY blathers;

HENRY (CONT'D)

But she's a good girl, the king could do worse you know. Who needs Scotland, let it rot for all I care. English kings should marry English girls, he -

ELIZABETH comes up behind them, she smiles embarrassed.

THOMAS

Your Highness.

HENRY

Princess Elizabeth!

ELIZABETH

I was wondering if you had seen my brother?

HENRY

Oh well Your Grace let me first say how radiant you look, how -

THOMAS spots CATHERINE heading into a side chamber with EDWARD. He panics.

THOMAS

I'll take you to him.

THOMAS grabs ELIZABETH's hand, she looks to it feeling tingles all the way up her arm, THOMAS is unaware though, eyes on the side door. He pulls ELIZABETH through the crowd.

55

INT. SIDE CHAMBER - NIGHT

55

CATHERINE closes the door behind her and looks to EDWARD.

CATHERINE

I have a confession to make to you Edward, and I only come to you now because I was foolish and unwise before. I throw myself at your mercy.

CATHERINE throws herself at the boy's feet, he looks alarmed.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

I loved your father the king. But I've acted with a woman's weakness. I would never wish to hurt you, I -

EDWARD

(genuinely concerned)

Don't cry! If you have done me harm I know that it would not be intentional. There is no person in the world that loves me so much as you.

CATHERINE cries to EDWARD, but we perhaps see a small smile hidden from EDWARD, this is going to work...

56

INT. COURT, A BANQUET - NIGHT

56

We are with THOMAS pulling ELIZABETH through the crowd as people get up and block their way. We duck and dive with THOMAS leading ELIZABETH through the room, panic setting into his face. Knowing he has to get there in time. He finally reaches the door with her. He pushes it open. We reveal in the side room EDWARD being embraced by a sobbing CATHERINE on her knees.

EDWARD

Sister!

THOMAS and ELIZABETH stand side by side, both looking in horror at the scene.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

They're married!

EDWARD grins at her in almost disbelief but happiness, ELIZABETH looks between them both. Both her and THOMAS' hearts drop to their shoes.

57

INT. CHELSEA MANOR - EARLY MORNING

57

A sketch of HENRY VIII is being done, we find it is being drawn by ELIZABETH, still in night clothes while SERVANTS sleep. KAT looks over bleary eyed.

KAT

Princess.

ELIZABETH

I've forgotten his face.

KAT

It's a good likeness to me.

ELIZABETH

Then you have forgotten his face also. Just like the rest of them.

KAT

If Lady Catherine and -

ELIZABETH gets up cutting her off and returns to bed, KAT watches her.

58

INT. COURT - DAY

58

ANNE and CATHERINE are arguing, CATHERINE has just asked for ANNE to carry the train of her dress. There are other COURTIERS including DUDLEY, keeping an eye on this argument.

ANNE

I refuse. You are now the wife of my husband's younger brother, no king's widow, so I refuse.

CATHERINE

My place in court, if you would ask the king, -

ANNE

I will ask the man who speaks for the king. And that man is my husband the Lord Protector and as he is Protector of the realm I would also like to now talk about your jewels.

CATHERINE

My jewels?

ANNE

I don't think the late king left them in order for them to hang off the neck of Thomas Seymour's latest whore.

CATHERINE

(loudly to the other
COURTIERS)

Where is my husband?

ANNE

You ask your husband to act as a conciliator? What a joke. But if he won't teach you manners, then I, as family, will take it upon my self.

ANNE has risen a hand, DUDLEY comes over to quell the fire.

DUDLEY

Lady Somerset...

CATHERINE

Lay a hand on me, I dare you.

ANNE

What on earth possessed you to throw aside all decency? It will be your head on a block, yours and your husband -

CATHERINE slaps ANNE hard, DUDLEY stands back suddenly unwilling to be involved in an actual fight. ANNE tears at CATHERINE, a wild brawl between the two, SERVANTS runs forward to tear the WOMEN from one another.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Let go of me! Let -

Her wrist is caught suddenly and firmly as she goes to strike her restrainer, she sees it is SOMERSET. A coldly furious, towering SOMERSET, he asks calmly.

SOMERSET

Where. Is my brother?

CATHERINE held the other side of the room looks to SOMERSET, now afraid.

59

INT. COUNCIL, COURT - DAY

59

SOMERSET is alone in the room, calmly but deeply angry. He waits. THOMAS comes in.

THOMAS

Ah the Lord Protector returned from Scotland. Praise be for your safe deliverance and for your victory -

SOMERSET sets down the message in front of him.

SOMERSET

What is this?

THOMAS

You lost your sight up in Scotland? Why cruel God, why!

SOMERSET

What. Is. This.

THOMAS

Appears to be a letter from the king.

SOMERSET

Saying?

THOMAS stops playing, he looks his brother in the eye.

THOMAS

Not saying so much as informing you that he has given his blessing to my marriage to Catherine Parr.

SOMERSET coldly sits. THOMAS is annoyed by his reaction.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

(mocking him)

These are the warmest fraternal congratulations I have ever witnessed, heavens I knew you loved me sir but for you to take such great joy in my happiness -

SOMERSET

You and that woman are not to see the king again.

THOMAS

And how do you propose to enforce that sir?

SOMERSET

With force if necessary.

THOMAS

And with what authority?

SOMERSET

(letting anger seep out)

With the authority of the crown.

(MORE)

SOMERSET (CONT'D)

With my authority as Lord
Protector. With the authority as
the de facto ruler of England.

THOMAS

See how the king likes that? It
won't be long till your heads on a
spike then brother, you think
there's no Tudor in him?

SOMERSET

What in hell got into your mind,
what would make you take such
risks!

THOMAS

(covering)

Well it's done now. And the king's
approved.

SOMERSET

It could have been treason, you
could have been executed for this.

THOMAS

And who would do that? You?

SOMERSET

Why go marry that woman!?

THOMAS

As if you would have let me marry
Mary! As if you would have let me
marry Elizabeth!

SOMERSET

(confused)

The princesses?

THOMAS

You would have never let me!

A slight pause, then SOMERSET is up, he's earnest, confused
by his brother now;

SOMERSET

My God man neither of us were made
to marry princesses. Neither of us
were made to -

THOMAS

(vicious)

Speak for yourself. For your own
weakness and frailty, and lack of
ambition. Do not speak for me.
Catherine Parr has loved me long
before Henry stole her into his
bed.

SOMERSET

Love? You want me to believe that you married her for love?

THOMAS

I married the queen. You think I'd let you do what you're doing? Build up the power, freeze me out like you have Henry Grey?

SOMERSET

Henry Grey is a fool that's why I freeze him out. I made you Admiral.

THOMAS

Just enough, just enough. Just enough to keep me looking the other way while you put a knife to my throat.

SOMERSET

Have you truly lost your senses?

THOMAS

I know what you are.

SOMERSET

I'm your brother.

THOMAS

I spit on that, I trust you no more than I trust a rabid dog. Go tell the king, tell him he's not to see me or the only mother he's ever known. Go tell him that and I'm sure your trifling victory in Scotland with soften that blow.

THOMAS goes to slam out the room.

SOMERSET

I could have died, there was a war -

THOMAS

War is never over. With any luck you'll still get yourself killed.

THOMAS slams out the room. SOMERSET is left alone, he looks after his brother, truly confused and truly perturbed. DUDLEY comes to the door. SOMERSET looks up to him.

DUDLEY

You will not like this.

SOMERSET is grim, what now...

60 INT. TENT - NIGHT

60

PEDRO sits in a tent along with other SOLDIERS, they are playing five finger fillet with a knife. PEDRO is fast and does it well, the MEN cheer. A SOLDIER comes in.

SOLDIER

Sir.

PEDRO looks up, he sees the news is serious...

61 EXT. SEA - NIGHT

61

The five year old MARY is huddled in a cloak, she looks up to the lights of the castle up on a hill as she is hustled across the dark shore to a waiting rowing boat. She's scared.

62 INT. COURT - DAY

62

EDWARD looks up at DUDLEY and SOMERSET.

EDWARD

So I don't have to marry her?

DUDLEY

It seems, that the Scottish girl has fled to France.

EDWARD

Fled?

DUDLEY

The feeling perhaps was mutual.

DUDLEY has a small smile, EDWARD is now offended...

EDWARD

(to SOMERSET now outraged)
What was the point of you going to Scotland, spending all that money if you lose her!?

SOMERSET

Garrisons in Scotland will keep what we have won, we -

EDWARD

Years of war under my father to get them to honour this betrothal and I announce victory to the entire court and now she has escaped?

SOMERSET

You wanted me to return to court.

EDWARD

I wanted not to look a fool! What's
the world to think of the king of
England now?

EDWARD storms away. SOMERSET closes his eyes, exhausted by
the child. DUDLEY looks to him.

DUDLEY

For a boy who hardly saw his father
he is uncannily like him. But I
suppose they were both children in
their own way.

(after a small beat)

And I grow tired of serving
children, don't you Lord Protector?

DUDLEY looks to SOMERSET, SOMERSET looks back. After a beat.

SOMERSET

If you talk like that again. I will
have you whipped.

DUDLEY's face falls, SOMERSET leaves. DUDLEY's face curdles
into dislike for SOMERSET.

63

INT. CHELSEA MANOR - DAY

63

SERVANTS go with fresh bed linen, ELIZABETH sees this. She
watches it pass her. She follows along to see who it is for.
She stops at a chamber door and sees JANE standing there as
SERVANTS make up her room.

ELIZABETH

What's this?

JANE turns.

JANE

(in greeting)
Princess Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH

(recognising her)
You.

JANE

I'm, I'm to live here now they say.

ELIZABETH

Who says?

JANE

My father.

ELIZABETH looks her over horrified.

JANE (CONT'D)

As I am in line for the succession,
I think they thought that to be
under the Lady Catherine's care,
and Sir Thomas -

ELIZABETH

In line for the succession! My
brother will have children and if
he didn't there is my sister Mary,
there is me, it's a nonsense to
talk of your family in line -

JANE

(earnest)

But you and your sister are
illegitimate.

ELIZABETH

(quiet, with shock at her
impertinence)

What did you say?

JANE

I'm sorry, I know your father made
it law that -

ELIZABETH

(with growing anger)

You dare speak about my father. You
dare speak as if you knew the king!

JANE

I'm sorry.

ELIZABETH

I should strike you for even
thinking such a thing, talk of my
mother and my father - What? What
is it that your thinking? Oh her
mother was a whore, her mother was
a traitor?

JANE

(shrinking away)

I'm thinking nothing.

ELIZABETH

What are you doing here? In my
home?

JANE

I'm sorry, none of this was my
idea. I wanted to stay with my
family, I wanted -

ELIZABETH

Who cares what you want? You think I've ever got what I've wanted?

JANE

You're a princess.

ELIZABETH

Exactly. You think I've ever got what I've wanted?

ELIZABETH storms out.

64

INT. CHELSEA MANOR - DAY

64

ELIZABETH storms down a corridor, she slams open doors looking for someone. Finally she finds CATHERINE in a room.

ELIZABETH

You dishonour my father. You laugh at his memory. You marry again. You lie to me. You force me to come live with you. And now I am to live with that brat? With a child already fantasising about taking my brother's throne?

CATHERINE's eyes dart behind ELIZABETH, she whips round and sees THOMAS standing there.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

(suddenly abashed)

Forgive me sir. I didn't know you were there.

THOMAS

Well as you say, I've married your stepmother, afraid I live here now too, along with the brat.

CATHERINE

Elizabeth I'm so sorry, I never -

THOMAS

You don't need to apologise my dear. It's me.

(to ELIZABETH)

The brat Jane is my idea I'm afraid.

ELIZABETH

I didn't know.

THOMAS

And if you want her gone...

ELIZABETH

Of course I don't.

THOMAS

You are my princess, you are the king's daughter. If she is to leave then she is to leave.

ELIZABETH

I just don't understand why she's here.

THOMAS

(looking to CATHERINE)

Why don't you give us a moment?

CATHERINE

Are you sure?

THOMAS nods, ELIZABETH is embarrassed and looks to the floor, CATHERINE leaves.

THOMAS

Shall I be honest?

ELIZABETH

I believe one always should be.

THOMAS

Your brother the king has eyes for Jane.

ELIZABETH

(derisively)

For Jane Grey?

THOMAS

She is a good Protestant girl, an excellent family, English and meek as a mouse.

(Eyeing ELIZABETH)

Unlike some others I could name.

ELIZABETH

I'm sorry.

THOMAS

Never be sorry for a personality Elizabeth. I will tell you a secret, I have one myself.

ELIZABETH smiles, she attempts further conversation.

ELIZABETH

I find it hard to picture you a matchmaker.

THOMAS

I am only trying to help. Anyway your brother is the only reason I am not locked in the Tower right now for my marriage to Catherine. A decision, I now realise, if you were Queen perhaps would have gone another way?

ELIZABETH

I wouldn't lock you in the Tower.

THOMAS

You wouldn't? That's very kind of you. We are sorry for the rush, but I had to act fast. You know your brother Edward had it in his mind that I should marry your sister.

ELIZABETH

Mary?!

THOMAS

Indeed. Stamp the Catholic out of her or something along those lines. Though apparently I'm not made to marry princesses...

ELIZABETH

Who said that?

THOMAS

The Lord Protector. Who else.

They laugh. THOMAS draws closer, more earnestly but smiling;

THOMAS (CONT'D)

So I suppose I would never have married Mary.

ELIZABETH

I suppose not.

THOMAS

Anyway if I had had the choice of sisters, do you think I'd of chosen her?

THOMAS locks eyes with ELIZABETH, she daren't answer.

65

INT. CHELSEA, CORRIDOR - DAY

65

CATHERINE lingers near the door, KAT passes.

KAT

Have you seen Elizabeth?

CATHERINE

She is with Sir Thomas.

KAT

Alone?

CATHERINE

Alone. He is her stepfather now after all.

KAT

I just saw the Lady Jane Grey is to stay here now?

CATHERINE

Yes.

KAT

You, the princess, Jane. Quite the nest of powerful women Sir Thomas presides over now.

KAT smirks, meaning nothing by this but gossip, CATHERINE smiles back but as KAT leaves her face falls, a little wary of her words.

66

INT. CHELSEA - DAY

66

THOMAS is close to ELIZABETH.

ELIZABETH

You chose my stepmother. You chose Catherine.

THOMAS

Choices. Choices. They're hard to make. Especially when we're bound by brothers and councils. And wives who take the initiative.

ELIZABETH

You think you need to explain that to me sir?

THOMAS

No. I suppose I don't. If only we were all free. Free to act as we chose. To do what we wanted.

A pause.

ELIZABETH

If only.

THOMAS, the 39 year old, leans in and kisses the 14 year old ELIZABETH, she looks up to him unsure what to do.

We are outside the window and far away. We see the two figures of THOMAS and ELIZABETH. THOMAS starts to undress ELIZABETH, she lets him do it but does not help, does not move in response. Finally she is naked, he looks her over. We come closer and closer till we are just outside the window.

THOMAS' eyes finally reach her face, they lock eyes, a beat.

And then she starts forward, she kisses him with a teenager's passion and impulse. We cut to black.

END OF EPISODE