

007 LUDWIG
From the King. Do you think -

LUDWIG TAKES THE LETTER OUT OF THE ENVELOPE.

008 COUNT WALTHER
Sealed with the red cross...Sir, it
must be about -

009 LUDWIG
(Reading)
The Crusades. Pope Honorius has
pressed King Frederick to fulfill
his oath to recover the Holy Land.
He enjoins me to take the cross.

010 COUNT WALTHER
And will you, sir? With Elizabeth
expecting your third child so soon?

011 LUDWIG
I must. The king has beckoned me.
Look, he has enclosed the badge of
the red cross.

012 COUNT WALTHER
May I pin it on you, sir?

013 LUDWIG
No, no. Not yet. Elizabeth will be
greatly troubled if she sees it on
me. I must seek the Lord's will.
Until then, I will keep it in my
belt pouch. Such a small cross, and
yet how heavy it feels.

014 COUNT WALTHER
If I may, I would like to join you
on the Crusade.

015 LUDWIG
Of course, Walther.

TRANSITION WITH MUSIC

6 INT. ELIZABETH AND LUDWIG'S BEDROOM - DAY

Side 1
START >>>

016 ELIZABETH
Oh Lutz, little Hermann and little
Sophie are so excited for the new
baby. They made up a song!

017 LUDWIG
How clever!

018 ELIZABETH

Oh, I forgot to tell you! The Franciscan friars are returning here soon to found the hospital!

019 LUDWIG

That will be a great help to our people.

020 ELIZABETH

I want to help them buy the building materials. Please?

021 LUDWIG

Go ahead. Take some coins from my belt pouch for now. We can arrange the full financing later. It's hanging on the chair there.

SHE DASHES TO THE BELT POUCH AND OPENS IT.

022 ELIZABETH

Oh thank you, Lutz! Friar Rüdiger brings such hope. To have nothing and be so joyful it's -
(Finding the badge)
Ludwig, what is this?.

023 LUDWIG

Oh, Elizabeth.

024 ELIZABETH

This badge. The red cross.

025 LUDWIG

I didn't know how to tell you.

026 ELIZABETH

Have you accepted?

027 LUDWIG

I have.

028 ELIZABETH

Lutz, how could you keep this from me? When are you leaving?

029 LUDWIG

In two days time.

030 ELIZABETH

Two days?

031 LUDWIG

Please do not worry, Bette.

032 ELIZABETH

Of course I'm worried, Lutz. You're going off to the Crusades. You might never return!

033 LUDWIG

I have vowed to fight for love of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

034 ELIZABETH

What about your vows to your wife?

035 LUDWIG

If you forbid me to go, I'll stay.

036 ELIZABETH

Oh Ludwig, that isn't fair.

037 LUDWIG

It's tradition. Sovereigns must fight. For the protection of all of Christendom.

038 ELIZABETH

I hoped the only Crusades you'd fight were the ones we played as children.

039 LUDWIG

I believe it is God's will that I go. My sister, my bride, please give me permission to leave.

040 ELIZABETH

I have given all of myself to God and now I have to give you too. But I wish it weren't so.

<<< END

041 LUDWIG

You will be in charge to care for the estate when I am gone.

042 ELIZABETH

The children will miss you dearly. What will we do without you?

043 LUDWIG

Stay vigilant. Without my presence, some nobles, like savage wolves, will prey upon you. But the Lord will protect you, Bette.

006 HENRY

Am I the only one here with a clear mind, Mother?

007 DUCHESS SOFIA

Son, this is not the way.

008 HENRY

With Ludwig gone, we cannot allow Elizabeth to jeopardize our kingdom any longer.

BANGING ON WOODEN DOOR

009 HENRY (CONT'D)

Elizabeth! Open up.

THE DOOR GENTLY OPENS.

010 ELIZABETH

Henry? Guards?

011 HENRY

Get out. You don't live here anymore

012 ELIZABETH

What do you mean?

BABY CRIES

013 ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Shhh little one.

014 HENRY

You must leave the Wartburg Castle.

015 DUCHESS SOFIA

Henry, with the winter frost - the baby! They have no where to go!

016 HENRY

Do not interfere, Mother. Elizabeth, you carelessly doled out money from our treasury. You let the stores of our granaries run dangerously low to feed mere derelicts.

017 ELIZABETH

We have been given many blessings. It is our responsibility to share.

Side 2
START >>>

018 HENRY

Share? You squandered our resources. Ludwig let you have your way, but not anymore. I'm in charge now.

019 ELIZABETH

Ludwig's son is his rightful heir.

020 HENRY

I am the oldest living male of this family, and you and your children are no longer welcome here.

021 ELIZABETH

Ludwig would be furious if he-

022 HENRY

Ludwig is not here. Now go and live with one of your beloved beggars, if they'll take you.

023 ELIZABETH

I will not allow you to throw my children out of their home and into the cold. You cannot -

024 DUCHESS SOFIA

Henry, they are Ludwig's children. Our own blood.

LITTLE SOPHIE AND LITTLE HERMANN RUSH IN.

025 LITTLE SOPHIE

Mama, Mama!

026 LITTLE HERMANN

We heard shouting.

027 JUTTA

My lady, I could not stop them.

028 ELIZABETH

(Adamant, whispered)

Henry, they will die in the frost.

029 HENRY

Fine. The children may remain, for now. But you, Elizabeth, must leave immediately. And take the baby.

030 LITTLE HERMANN

Mama, no!

031 LITTLE SOPHIE

Mama!

THE BABY CRIES.

032 HENRY

Guards, escort Elizabeth outside.

GUARDS IN CLANKING METAL BEGIN TO ESCORT
ELIZABETH DOWN THE HALL. THE CHILDREN FOLLOW.

033 ELIZABETH

Children, the Lord will be with
you, even when I cannot be.
Remember what mama prays with you?
From the book of Joshua. *"Have I
not commanded you? Be strong and of
good courage; be not frightened,
neither be dismayed."*

034 LITTLE SOPHIE

*"For the Lord your God is
with you wherever you go."*

034r LITTLE HERMANN

*"For the Lord your God is
with you wherever you go."*

ELIZABETH IS ESCORTED THROUGH A DOOR AND IS NOW
OUTSIDE, WALKING ALONG THE STONE PATH. THE
CHILDREN STAND IN THE DOORWAY.

035 ELIZABETH

Precisely. Jutta, stay with them.

<<< END

036 JUTTA

I will stand by them as I have
always stood by you, my lady.

037 LITTLE HERMANN

(Calling out)

I will be brave, Mama!

038 HENRY

(Oozing with hatred)

The Wartburg bids you farewell! And
good riddance.

THE CASTLE GATE SHUTS LOUDLY. BABY CRIES.

6

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE OF THURINGIA - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

BITTER WIND BLOWS. INFANT CRYING FROM COLD.

039 ELIZABETH

(To the baby)

Shhhh. God has given me misery to
endure for His sake, little one.

(MORE)

TRANSITION WITH MUSIC.

15 INT. ELIZABETH'S BEDROOM MARBURG CASTLE - DAY

**Side 3
START >>>**

132 JUTTA

How did your Uncle Eckembert take the news?

133 ELIZABETH

Uncle was not pleased. But, in time, he will understand.

134 JUTTA

You'll continue your hospital work?

135 ELIZABETH

Yes. And I will make a profession as a Third Order Franciscan.

136 JUTTA

You're going to join a convent?

137 ELIZABETH

No. I will live like a religious sister, emulating St. Francis in prayer and devotion, but I will stay here near all the poor people that so need our help.

138 JUTTA

And what about your children?

139 ELIZABETH

Duchess Sofia arranged for Little Hermann and Little Sophie to be taken care of until Hermann is old enough to reign as Landgrave.

140 JUTTA

Duchess Sofia wants to atone for Henry's actions. They will be well taken care of, I am sure. But the baby?

141 ELIZABETH

She will stay at the abbey with my Aunt Matilda.

142 JUTTA

Are you ready for this change?

143 ELIZABETH

I will miss them dearly. But the Lord is asking me to trust that He holds my family in His hands. He has asked me to give them up so I can faithfully follow His call on my heart to serve the poor.

144 JUTTA

God has always been with you my lady.

145 ELIZABETH

When I gave myself to Ludwig in marriage, my beloved was all radiant. He was mine, and I was his. Now Christ is my bridegroom.

146 JUTTA

My lady, I, too, have always been with you. Let me profess too.

147 ELIZABETH

Oh, Jutta! Truly?

<<< END

148 JUTTA

Truly!

TRANSITION WITH MUSIC.

16 INT. CHURCH - DAY

CHURCH BELLS TOLLING.

149 FRIAR RÜDIGER

Elizabeth, Jutta, do you wish to embrace the Gospel way of life by following the example and words of St. Francis of Assisi?

150 ELIZABETH

I do.

150r JUTTA

I do.

151 FRIAR RÜDIGER

Then make your profession before me and before the altar of Our Lord.

152 ELIZABETH

I, Elizabeth.

153 JUTTA

I, Jutta, by the grace of God.