

045 HENRY

Such a crowd! She's made this castle a magnet for those with tattered clothes and grumbling bellies. Is that a silver platter? Mother, she's just given one of those wastrels a silver platter!

046 DUCHESS SOFIA

Son, do not make your mother upset.

047 HENRY

She is giving our wealth away! And she calls us extravagant.

048 DUCHESS SOFIA

When it comes to Elizabeth, you cannot confront Ludwig without a plan.

049 HENRY

His leniency towards her "charity" compromises our family. We are all Christian here, but she takes it too far. How can Ludwig not see that her excessive almsgiving poses many risks to us?

050 DUCHESS SOFIA

Compose yourself, Henry, or even your strongest arguments will not prevail upon him.

TRANSITION WITH MUSIC

8 EXT. THURINGIAN FOREST - DAY

HORSES CLOP. HENRY AND LUDWIG RIDE THROUGH THE FOREST.

051 HENRY

Ludwig, I must speak with you. About a serious matter.

052 LUDWIG

Has the fresh air brought out your sensitive side again, Henry?

053 HENRY

I tried to warn you, but now -

054 LUDWIG

(Halting his horse)
Is this about Elizabeth?

Side 2
START >>>

055 HENRY

She steals the goods of our castle
to give them to the poor.

056 LUDWIG

So long as she does not sell the
castle, I am happy with her!

057 HENRY

Is this a joke to you? She is
irresponsible. And you, brother,
are unfit to be Landgrave.

058 LUDWIG

Watch yourself, Henry.

059 HENRY

Your love for Elizabeth is clouding
your judgment.

060 LUDWIG

My love for Elizabeth has given our
kingdom an heir. And that heir is
not you, Henry.

061 HENRY

Droves of penniless beggars crowd
our castle gates daily.

062 LUDWIG

This has been a tough winter.
Elizabeth models what all our noble
women should be doing.

063 HENRY

Do you not see? Giving away such
riches sets a dangerous precedent.
The peasants will grow lazy and
entitled, and we will lose our
power over them.

064 LUDWIG

The people trust me and they trust
Elizabeth.

065 HENRY

When their bellies are full, the
poor get ideas. They will no longer
be grateful; they will be clamoring
for more. It could lead to
violence, Ludwig.

066 LUDWIG

Generosity breeds generosity, not contempt!

067 HENRY

You and Elizabeth could end up without a castle to live in.

068 LUDWIG

(Smiling)

Is that a threat, Henry?

<<< END

069 HENRY

Draw the line. Control your wife. You inherited your title, Ludwig. Prove you are worthy of it.

TRANSITION WITH SUSPENSEFUL MUSIC.

9

EXT. THURINGIAN CASTLE GATE - DAY

ELIZABETH AND JUTTA QUIETLY SHUT THE GATE.

070 ELIZABETH

I don't think anyone saw us, Jutta.

071 JUTTA

Duchess Sofia would not be happy if she discovered that while she plays with her baby grandson -

072 ELIZABETH

Jutta, we are taking food to other little children who have nothing to eat.

073 JUTTA

She doesn't think a new mother should labor as you do, Elizabeth.

074 ELIZABETH

Can you manage that milk jug?

075 JUTTA

Yes, my lady. Oh. Look! Henry and Ludwig.

HENRY AND LUDWIG RETURN ON HORSEBACK.

076 HENRY

(Calling out from afar)

Elizabeth! Elizabeth!

(To Ludwig, lower voice)

Prove yourself, Ludwig.