

MUSIC SWELLS AND TRANSITIONS US TO...

14 INT. THE TOWER CELL - NIGHT

WATER DRIPS IN AN ECHO FILLED CELL. HAUNTING  
MUSIC SETS THE SCENE. A CLOCK TICKS SUBTLY  
INDICATING THE PASSING OF TIME.

115 ROBERT

O sacred eyes! The springs of  
living light, /  
The earthly heavens where angels  
joy to dwell, /  
How could you deign to view my  
deathful plight, /  
Or let your heavenly beams look on  
my hell? /

ROBERT ADJUSTS HIS BODY SLIGHTLY. IT'S PAINFUL.

DOWN THE HALL, A DOOR OPENS, AND THE JAILOR  
GASPS. FOOTSTEPS APPROACH. A HEAVY CLOAK SWINGS  
WITH EACH STEP. SHE STOPS OUTSIDE HIS CELL DOOR.

116 QUEEN ELIZABETH

Is it peace you've embraced here?  
Or simply defiance in disguise?

**Age: 30s**

**Side 3**

**START >>>** 117 ROBERT

Your... Your Majesty?

118 QUEEN ELIZABETH

Good evening, Robert Southwell.

119 ROBERT

After all these years, it is a true  
pleasure to make your acquaintance,  
Your Majesty.

A pause.

120 QUEEN ELIZABETH

And yet, you do not bow.

121 ROBERT

I would if I were able.

AN UNCOMFORTABLE SILENCE.

122 QUEEN ELIZABETH

Do you know that even now, while  
you waste away in this cell, your  
words spread like fire throughout  
England, Southwell.

(MORE)

QUEEN ELIZABETH (CONT'D)  
You stir hearts, both Catholic and  
Protestant alike.

123 ROBERT  
It is not I, but God.

124 QUEEN ELIZABETH  
God. Always God.

SHE UNLOCKS THE GATE AND APPROACHES HIM.

125 QUEEN ELIZABETH (CONT'D)  
(quiet)  
You never once declared me false.  
You never incited rebellion. You  
very well could have, with the  
influence you wield. Why?

126 ROBERT  
I will never deny you as my Queen.

127 QUEEN ELIZABETH  
But you will not put me above all  
else. Not above Rome. Not above  
your God.

128 ROBERT  
No monarch lives above God, Your  
Majesty. Not even you.

A beat.

129 QUEEN ELIZABETH  
You speak treason, cloaked in  
reverence.

130 ROBERT  
I pray for you, Your Majesty. I  
pray for your soul. I pray for this  
country. For its people, Catholic  
and Protestant alike. I have never  
prayed against you. I never will.

A beat.

131 QUEEN ELIZABETH  
Then why must you make me your  
enemy?

A beat.

132 ROBERT  
I have not.

Another pause.

133 ROBERT (CONT'D)

My intention has always been to save the eternal souls of England. I came back to my homeland, and I would make that choice again and again, if I could. Not only from Rome, but from the farthest parts of the world, to procure England's salvation. To procure your salvation, Your Majesty.

134 QUEEN ELIZABETH

My salvation?

135 ROBERT

I desire it no less than I desire my own. I pray the Lord God protects you, enlightens you, and keeps you and your Council safe.

136 QUEEN ELIZABETH

I fear my advisors have deceived me of your true intent. Or is it you who deceives me now?

137 ROBERT

It seems you may have to find the answer to that yourself, Your Majesty, for I cannot show it you.

Pause.

138 QUEEN ELIZABETH

I do not want you to die.

139 ROBERT

Death, especially for one's faith, is not a loss, but a glorious gain. Your Majesty, I will pray that God forgive you for my death.

**<<< END**

140 QUEEN ELIZABETH

But you do not *have* to die! You must simply... Recant. Renounce your Jesuit cause, publicly, and I shall see you exiled instead of facing the gallows.

ROBERT LIFTS HIMSELF UP SLIGHTLY.