

HERALD (CONT'D)

Any Priests found in England shall  
be named a traitor and face certain  
death! All ye faithful, take heed!

WALLA: GASPS RIPPLE THROUGH THE CROWD.

006 MAN 1

About time, I say! Papists bring  
nothing but treachery!

007 WOMAN

The Catholics have done no harm!  
This goes too far!

008 MAN 2

To speak that falsehood is treason!  
Are you a traitor, woman?

WE FOLLOW FOOTSTEPS DOWN THE STREET TO A PUB.

6 INT. LONDON PUB - DAY

WALLA: PUB CHATTER. FIRE CRACKLES. A DOOR OPENS.

009 GIFFORD

I'm looking for Walsingham.

010 BARTENDER

Back corner.

011 **WALSINGHAM**

Well, well, well, if it isn't Mr.  
Gilbert Gifford. My most trusted  
spy, finally back in London.  
(sing songy)  
How doth thee fare?

GIFFORD REMOVES HIS COAT AND SITS.

012 GIFFORD

Well enough, Sir Walsingham. I have  
news from Rome. Robert Southwell...  
Has just been ordained a priest.

013 **WALSINGHAM**

At last. And his intentions?

014 GIFFORD

His superiors advise he stay in  
Rome and continue his writings. But  
I know him. His heart beats for  
England. He longs to return.

**Side 2**  
**START >>>**

WALSINGHAM TAKES A SIP FROM HIS CUP.

015 WALSINGHAM

And we will be ready for him when he does. Your work has served the Crown well, Gifford.

016 GIFFORD

It is an honor to serve our sovereign.

017 WALSINGHAM

I have another task for you now.

018 GIFFORD

Another priest?

019 WALSINGHAM

No. A serpent... With a crown.

020 GIFFORD

You can't mean the usurper.

021 WALSINGHAM

Queen Elizabeth's own cousin, yes. Mary, Queen of Scots. Imprisoned, but still scheming. We've intercepted ciphered letters... Clever, concealed... but not clever enough.

022 GIFFORD

What can I do?

023 WALSINGHAM

We don't need a confession. We need a moment. A slip. A phrase she cannot take back. All you must do, Gifford, is gain her trust.

024 GIFFORD

And if I gain her trust?

025 WALSINGHAM

(leaning in)

Trap her, Gifford. With the royal Catholic blood finally bled out, the true Queen may finally rest easy.

**<<< END**

026 GIFFORD

Consider it done.

(beat)

God save the Queen.