

7 **EXT. STREETS OF NORFOLK - DAYS LATER**

THE VIOLENT SOUNDS OF A RAID: HORSES WHINNY.
DOORS OPEN. WOMEN SCREAM. PURSUIVANTS ANTAGONIZE
LED BY RICHARD TOPCLIFFE.

024 TOPCLIFFE

Drag them out on their knees. Let
their neighbors see what becomes of
Papist traitors. Ransack them.
Whatever you find, consider it
payment for your trouble.

WALLA: PURSUIVANTS LAUGH.

A fearful woman, AGNES, takes in the scene.

025 AGNES

(to herself)

I must warn the Southwells.

THE SOUND OF THE RAID FADES AS SHE RUNS AWAY.

8 **INT. THE SOUTHWELL FAMILY HOME - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS**

WALLA: AGNES RUSHES UP STEPS, PUSHES OPENS A
DOOR AND CLOSES IT ABRUPTLY. SHE EXHALES.

BRIDGIT AND RICHARD SOUTHWELL sit in the drawing room.

START >>>

026 BRIDGIT

Agnes? What has happened? You're
trembling!

027 AGNES

(gasping)

The pursuivants... They raided a
Mass tonight.

028 RICHARD

Here? In Norfolk?

029 AGNES

Indeed, Lord Southwell.

030 BRIDGIT

Richard-

031 RICHARD

Be calm, Bridgit. What happened?

032 AGNES

(scattered, breathless)

They said they were there for
fines, for names, but these
pursuivants were different than
usual. They were looking for blood.

033 BRIDGIT

Lord in Heaven...

034 AGNES

Their leader...Topcliffe... He was
worst of all.

035 RICHARD

How do you mean?

036 AGNES

(unraveling)

He was more than cruel, Lord
Southwell. He relished in finding
us. He enjoyed it. They called him
the Priest Hunter.

037 BRIDGIT

How did you escape?

038 AGNES

Through the hidden door in the
chapel. We planned for this. Though
we always hoped we would never have
to use it.

039 BRIDGIT

Lord have mercy.

040 RICHARD

So it has started? They are
apprehending Catholics now?

041 BRIDGIT

But the Queen surely wouldn't raid
the home of the gentry-

042 RICHARD

We cannot presume what she would
and would not do, Bridgit. She sent
a *Priest Hunter* to Norfolk.

A FLOORBOARD CREAKS AS YOUNG ROBERT (8) APPEARS.

043 YOUNG ROBERT

Priest Hunter?

THE ADULTS GASP.

044 AGNES

Oh my, sweet Robert. What are you doing up? You should be upstairs with your brothers and sisters.

(to Robert's parents)

Excuse me, Lord and Lady Southwell, I'll take Young Robert to bed.

045 RICHARD

Thank you, Agnes.

AGNES AND YOUNG ROBERT EXIT. AFTER A MOMENT...

046 BRIDGIT

(to Richard)

As long as we keep paying the fines, they'll leave us be. The Queen has not outlawed being a Catholic.

047 RICHARD

Not yet. But what happens when gold no longer satisfies them? The old faith paints targets on our backs.

048 BRIDGIT

(quietly)

Then what are we to do, Richard?

<<< END

049 RICHARD

I... I don't know.

SILENCE FOR A FEW MOMENTS, THEN WE CUT TO:

9

INT. YOUNG ROBERT'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATERAGNES FLUFFS A PILLOW AND SMOOTHES THE SHEETS.

050 YOUNG ROBERT

Will the Priest Hunter come here, to our home, Agnes?

051 AGNES

You needn't trouble yourself with such worries, little Robert.

052 YOUNG ROBERT

But they took those people. You said so.

Agnes collects herself.