

**Age: 30s**

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

**START >>>** 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?

049 RICHARD

I... I don't know.

**<<< END**SILENCE FOR A FEW MOMENTS, THEN WE CUT TO:

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**INT. YOUNG ROBERT'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER**AGNES 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.