QUEEN ELIZABETH (CONT'D) Even my own court speaks of the rot and the shadow. And you... You are Protestant, are you not? Yet here you stand, pleading for a Catholic priest. How curious.

Age: 60s

097 RICHARD

(quietly)

I am Protestant, Your Majesty. But he is still my son.

WALLA: MURMURS OF COURTIERS AROUND THEM.

098 QUEEN ELIZABETH Very well. He shall be transferred. A mercy for a good Protestant.

A pause.

099 QUEEN ELIZABETH (CONT'D) You may bring your son some new clothes. And anything else he might need before his transfer. I would not have my court think me unjust.

100 RICHARD Thank you, Your Majesty.

MUSIC TRANSITIONS US TO...

EXT. OUTSIDE THE GATEHOUSE PRISON - EARLY MORNING 13

Richard waits outside the Gatehouse.

THE HEAVY SCRAPE OF IRON DOORS. WIND BLOWS. FOOTSTEPS ECHO AS ROBERT IS DRAGGED OUT BY TWO GUARDS. CHAINS RATTLE. HIS BREATH IS LABORED.

Side 2

101 RICHARD

START >>> Dear God... Robert, is that you?

ROBERT FALLS TO THE GROUND.

102 RICHARD (CONT'D)

Robert!

HE DROPS TO HIS KNEES BESIDE HIM.

103 RICHARD (CONT'D)

My God, it is far worse than I feared. You are covered in lice, maggots, your own... filth. How could they have done this to you? 104 ROBERT

(through gasps)

Father?

RICHARD EMBRACES HIM.

105 RICHARD

Here. I brought you fresh clothes, and a Bible, and... Please, let me wash your face.

HE WIPES ROBERT'S FACE AND THEN PRESSES A PACK INTO ROBERT'S HANDS, TREMBLING.

106 RICHARD (CONT'D)

(voice shaking)

Your suffering has not been in vain. What you endure... The people know, they tell stories of you. Men, women, children-

107 ROBERT

The stories don't mean anything-

108 RICHARD

Oh, but they do, Robert. I... It's changed me. I've changed.

A pause.

109 ROBERT

What do you mean?

110 RICHARD

I have returned.

(urgent, quiet)

I am Catholic again.

A long pause.

111 ROBERT

(whispered)

Praise God.

112 JAILOR

I am sorry, but we must keep moving. You can lean on me, Mr. Southwell. To the Tower. Now.

113 ROBERT

God Bless you, Father.

114 RICHARD

And you... Father Southwell. << END

