

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.

SILENCE FOR A FEW MOMENTS, THEN WE CUT TO:

9 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?

**START >>>** 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.

053 AGNES

There are Englishmen who seek to use our faith as a weapon to overthrow the Queen. Some believe she has no claim to the throne.

054 YOUNG ROBERT

Is that what Catholics believe?

055 AGNES

Many Catholics believe that, yes.

056 YOUNG ROBERT

Is that what you believe?

057 AGNES

It is not my place -

058 YOUNG ROBERT

Then who decides what's right?

059 AGNES

That's the hard part, Robert. We have to walk calmly in the darkness of our faith.

060 YOUNG ROBERT

But I am afraid of the dark, Agnes.

061 AGNES

We are all afraid of the dark sometimes. And we do not know what tomorrow brings. But, Robert, do you know who does?

Robert hesitates, then answers in a whisper.

062 YOUNG ROBERT

God?

063 AGNES

Yes. Only God. Not the Queen. Not her pursuivants. Not even that great and terrible Priest Hunter. God is the light in the darkness, Robert. And if God is for us, who can be against us?

064 YOUNG ROBERT

If God is for us, who can be against us...

065 AGNES

That's right. So do not waste your days in fear, my little one. Pray. Trust. Do what is right, always.

066 YOUNG ROBERT

Even if I am scared?

067 AGNES

Especially then.

<<< END

068 YOUNG ROBERT

(drifting off to sleep)

I will pray and trust and do what is right...

10

INT. HORSHAM ST. FAITH PRIORY - THE NEXT MORNING

CHEERFUL MUSIC TRANSITIONS US INTO A NEW DAY.

Robert and his cousin, JOHN COTTON (8), walk through the priory next to the Southwell Family home.

069 YOUNG ROBERT

Oh, John! Look at this one.

070 YOUNG JOHN

Wow. These paintings are twice as tall as you are, Robert.

071 YOUNG ROBERT

The monks who founded St. Faith's Priory painted them. Every stone and stroke of paint was an act of worshipping the Lord.

072 YOUNG JOHN

And now, it sits empty...

073 YOUNG ROBERT

My father told me that the Priory was abandoned when my Grandfather built our home here.

074 YOUNG ROBERT

When I look at these paintings, I feel it, John. A calling, like these men before us felt.

075 YOUNG JOHN

A calling? To what?