

6 INT. WARBLINGTON CASTLE - NIGHT

ROBERT (10) and JOHN (10) walk briskly down the hallway of Warblington Castle, John's Family's Estate.

044 YOUNG ROBERT

Are you sure no one will look for us here, John?

045 YOUNG JOHN

Mass has just ended, Robert. My mother said the families will gather in the Great Hall before dinner. I'd say that gives us an hour before anyone comes looking.

046 YOUNG ROBERT

And the rest of them?

047 YOUNG JOHN

In the study, as you instructed!

048 YOUNG ROBERT

Very well. Come then, let us begin!

ROBERT OPENS A DOOR IN THE HALLWAY TO...

7 INT. WARBLINGTON CASTLE - STUDY - CONTINUOUS

WALLA: A GROUP OF BOYS CHATTING.

049 YOUNG ROBERT

Gentlemen... Welcome to the very first meeting of our Secret Catholic Society.

WALLA: THE BOYS CHEER IN EXCITEMENT.

050 YOUNG ROBERT (CONT'D)

We are joined here, because we, men, vow to bring honor to our Catholic faith in England and protect those who cannot protect themselves.

WALLA: A MURMUR OF AGREEMENT.

Just then a voice calls out softly from the shadows...

START >>> 051 **YOUNG ANNE**

With all my heart!

WALLA: A FEW STARTLED GASPS FROM THE BOYS.

052 YOUNG JOHN

A girl?!

053 BOY

Listen, girl, this is a Gentlemen's club. You can't be in the Society!

WALLA: THE BOYS ECHO IN AGREEMENT.

054 YOUNG ANNE

I can fight for our faith just as well as any of you!

WALLA: THE BOYS GRUMBLE. ROBERT ONCE AGAIN CLEARS HIS THROAT AND THEY SILENCE.

055 YOUNG ROBERT

Anyone willing to fight for our faith is welcome here. We cannot restore Catholicism with men alone.
(to Anne)
What is your name, my lady?

056 YOUNG ANNE

Anne Dacre.

057 YOUNG ROBERT

Welcome Anne Dacre. The Church needs you.

058 YOUNG ANNE

Thank you, Robert Southwell.

<<< END

ROBERT LAUGHS LIGHTLY. THE ROOM SETTLES.

059 YOUNG ROBERT

Tonight, gentlemen... Um, and lady... We swear an oath to honor God and the Catholic faith. The most dangerous place in the world for Catholics today is England. They have taken our Churches. Demolished our Altars, our Abbeys, our Priories. Even our private chapels must be hidden from the world's view. We Catholics who will not attend the Queen's church are called, 'Recusants.' It comes from the Latin word, recusare which means "To Refuse." So I ask you today to embrace this name, with all your heart, and to shout with me, "I refuse!"