

ROBERT (CONT'D)

My own father turns from the fold,
and I cannot convince him
otherwise. My Lord, make my pen a
formidable instrument, my ink as
fire, my verse a net for lost
souls. Let them read and be drawn
to Thee. We are not yet silenced. I
am your servant still. Help me
exploit the talents you have
generously gifted to me. Show me
what to write.

SCRIBBLING INTENSIFIES AS THE MUSIC SWELLS.

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INT. FATHER PERSONS'S OFFICE - THE NEXT MORNING.

ROBERT ENTERS AND SLAMS A STACK OF PAMPHLETS
ONTO FATHER ALLEN'S DESK.

START >>>

079 FATHER ALLEN

Robert Southwell, isn't this a fine
reunion.

080 ROBERT

Father Allen? I was expecting
Father Persons. Oh, it is very good
to see you again.

081 FATHER ALLEN

And you. You're covered in ink.
Have you been up all night?

082 ROBERT

It couldn't wait.

FATHER ALLEN THUMBING THROUGH THE SHEETS.

083 FATHER ALLEN

What are these?

084 ROBERT

They must be read. By every
Catholic. Every Protestant. Every
soul who hungers for the truth.

085 FATHER ALLEN

Pamphlets? For the Catholic cause?

086 ROBERT

Yes. With the truth as plainly as I
can write it. About the mission,
our people... what we endure.

A pause.

087 FATHER ALLEN

(while reading)

These are not ordinary reflections.
They carry weight. People will hear
this. Even those who never step
foot inside a church.

088 ROBERT

That's why they're in English. If
our faith is to survive in England,
it must be spoken in the tongue of
those who are starving for it. We
will win the hearts of Europe with
love. By revealing God's burning
love for man-

089 FATHER ALLEN

I agree.

090 ROBERT

-And... Wait, what? You do?

091 FATHER ALLEN

I do. I read the transcripts of
Father Campion's trial, Robert. It
was a powerful witness in which he
never once denounced our Queen. And
the people of England heard it. His
death is being mourned by Catholics
and Protestants alike.

092 ROBERT

He was a good man.

093 FATHER ALLEN

He was. And he has proven that
Catholicism is the beautiful,
chivalrous alternative to Queen
Elizabeth's rage and persecution.
If Queen Elizabeth is our queen,
the heretic government is the
dragon, then we, the Catholics, are
the knights.

(beat)

Which is why I have been in talks
with Pope Gregory. He intends to
write another Papal Bull.

094 ROBERT

Saying what, Father?

095 FATHER ALLEN

He shall order the suspension of
all political activity by all
Jesuits and missionary priests
going to England. It is only by
spiritual means that England should
be converted. While this has been
our mission for a long while, this
papal writing will communicate to
the Queen the truly spiritual
nature of our work.

096 ROBERT

That's... Wonderful news, Father
Allen. I'm overcome with joy. The
papal writing will prove to the
Queen that we mean her no harm. We
do not defy her Crown.

097 FATHER ALLEN

Indeed. And in regards to your
work, I will arrange for
publication at once. Let's let the
Word be heard.

<<< END

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I/E. ENGLAND - VARIOUS

A stylized montage of voices plays over uplifting music:

098 ROBERT

They thought they could silence us,
but words travel farther than
footsteps and speak in the dark.

HORSE HOOVES ON DIRT. OWLS HOOT. PAPER UNROLLS.

099 VOICE 1

Here it is. Another pamphlet by
Robert Southwell... God bless him.

A DOOR SHUTS, A FIREPLACE CRACKLES.

100 VOICE 2

"What sword they raise against us,
we shall meet with word and
witness..."

PARCHMENT UNROLLING, INK SCRIBBLES.

101 VOICE 3

You got it from Cambridge?