

WALLA: THE REST OF THE BOYS CHIME IN ASYNCHRONOUSLY.

073 ALL CHILDREN
We do.

074 YOUNG JOHN
But Robert, can we truly vow to shield anyone from harm?

075 YOUNG ROBERT
We can vow to try.

SUDDENLY, HEAVY FOOTSTEPS IN THE HALL.

076 YOUNG ROBERT (CONT'D)
What was that?

ROBERT OPENS THE DOOR AND PEERS OUT.

077 YOUNG ROBERT (CONT'D)
It looks like a messenger from London. Stay here, friends. I'll find out what's going on. John, come with me.

ROBERT AND JOHN WALK DOWN THE HALLWAY.

8 INT. WARBLINGTON CASTLE - THE GREAT HALL - MOMENTS LATER

WALLA: FAMILIES CONVERSING AFTER MASS.

The boys enter the hall as the messenger hands a letter to GEORGE COTTON, John's Father.

078 MESSENGER
I come bearing an urgent letter for the Lord of Warblington Castle.

WALLA: THE ROOM QUIETS AT THE MESSENGER'S WORDS.

START >>> 079 **GEORGE COTTON**
I am the Lord you seek.

GEORGE TAKES AND OPENS THE LETTER.

080 YOUNG JOHN
(to himself)
Father?

081 **GEORGE COTTON**
(reading, in disbelief)
The Duke of Norfolk has been executed.

WALLA: GASPS ECHO THROUGHOUT THE ROOM.

082 **GEORGE COTTON** (CONT'D)
It is believed he had been plotting
with Mary, Queen of Scots, to usurp
Queen Elizabeth's throne.

WALLA: MORE GASPS.

083 **GEORGE COTTON** (CONT'D)
And that Walsingham, the Queen's
Spymaster, has been watching some
of the families present here. He
knows of our Catholic beliefs.

WALLA: MURMURS OF FEAR.

084 **GEORGE COTTON** (CONT'D)
I must burn this letter.

GEORGE THROWS THE LETTER IN THE FIRE.

085 **GEORGE COTTON** (CONT'D)
The Crown turns her eye toward all
Catholics tonight. We must stand
together. Our castle is now home to
any of you who need to stay here.
(Then, quietly)
Especially you, Richard and Bridgit
Southwell.

<<< END

086 **RICHARD**
It seems we have no other choice.

Young Robert and Young John turn to one another.

087 **YOUNG JOHN**
I am afraid, Robert.

088 **YOUNG ROBERT**
Me too, John.

SUSPENSEFUL MUSIC TRANSITIONS US TO...

9 **INT. WARBLINGTON CASTLE - THE BOYS' ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT**

Young Robert and Young John sit by candlelight.

ROBERT SCRIBBLES FURIOUSLY.

089 **YOUNG ROBERT**
In times like this that I feel
moved to write.